

Tikoi School and District  
50th Jubilee



**1941-1991**

*Ann Rutherford*

39 Kiwi St.

TAUPO

(07) 3787279

#### **REFUGE IN THE PAST**

**H. Cannon**

The rocks stand  
as sentinels of the past;  
The grey ribbon road teases us  
with its pot-holes and ruts,  
And the grasses waving in the breeze  
gently beckon us back to the village.

A little house with lined and wrinkled weather-boards  
nestles snugly between hills and trees.  
Tall trees planted in love, many years ago  
stand now as if to guard the house  
and keep it from harm

A place of the past -  
it will welcome once again  
the tread of feet and the sound  
of familiar voices  
A place of refuge -  
Pull up a chair, sink down  
and rest awhile  
For here may you gather new strength  
to walk the treadmill of life once again.

## PREFACE

In compiling this booklet about the development of our school and district, as many people as possible have been contacted to contribute stories. In this way, a good cross section of memories have been included.

Because of the lack of written information memories have been relied on and some inaccuracies and gaps exists. Old memories sometimes have a habit of playing tricks too! However, this booklet is not intended as a complete history and if there is a failure to mention incidents and people that seem important to you, apologies are offered.

The 50th Jubilee of the Tihoi Primary School was held in 1991 and I do hope the booklet will help those who were unable to attend the Jubilee, relive their memories.

All traditions of the Tihoi School and District depend on the former pupils, teachers, residents and friends. This booklet is a tribute to them.

Sincere thanks must go to Joan Frost for typing copy onto a word processor ready for the printer and to all those people who supplied photos and information. Special thanks must go to Wendy Larsen, Doug and Cis Hay, Matangi Hepi, the Burgess family, Ted Mason, Lloyd Franklin, Peter Ranby, Perry Fletcher, Stu McGowan and Richard Dunn.

As secretary of the Jubilee Committee I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those people who attended the Jubilee thereby making it a success. A special thankyou must go to Shirley Sinton for baking our Jubilee Cake and to Christine Willoughby for her high standard of art work decorating the cake. Thank you Tihoi Trading Post, Whakamaru Pumps, Western Bay Transport and Neville Sinton for sponsoring our advertising signs and thank you Jock Joseph and Pastor Tom Lind for conducting our opening prayers and the Sunday Church service during the weekend.

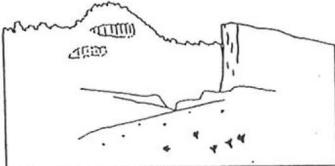
The Jubilee weekend was well patrolled by six Maori wardens doing a splendid job keeping an eye on classrooms, the village and the marquee areas. Without their assistance the Jubilee Committee would not have coped.

We trust this booklet will remind you of a special place in your life - TIHOI.

Ngaire Albert  
Research Co-ordinator.



Tihoi Primary School 1991



## INTRODUCTION

The 50th Anniversary of the Tihi Primary School in 1991 made an appropriate occasion to gather information not only about the school but also about the surrounding district.

Situated North West of Lake Taupo, Tihi was in an isolated part of the 'hinterland' of the central North Island. Now readily accessible, it appears that its hey-day is over; modest research shows there has been virtually no documentation of the area and this publication will begin to fill that void.

Where possible the contents follow the chronological sequence of events and start with glimpses of pre-European history. It then outlines the formation of a buffer zone to deter conflict over land ownership. This ultimately led to the first European settlement by William Burgess in 1936. From this came the logging of private native bush, so much frowned on these days but a building necessity then.

Included at this stage is a section about the Tihi Sawmilling Company, its sawmill establishment and many other aspects such as the urgent formation of roads to truck out sawn timber. For stable employees to operate the mill a village was created with housing for married folk and thus it was that the company first brought teachers and schooling to the area.

The following section about the school history shows how vital a role the school played in the rural community. Families were very much at one with the teachers, the development of the school and all school activities. The teachers became closely involved with the local families and activities.

The Waihaha Sawmilling Company then started its operation three miles distant and it too created a village in the remote area, with log cut determined by the New Zealand Forest Service.

Trucking out sawn timber, servicing the mills and provisioning the people meant a rough ride of fifty-odd miles over pumice land, frequently washed out by rainfalls. Roading maintenance in part was carried out largely by the companies. The mills were self-sufficient wherever possible, generated their own power, serviced machinery and maintained the telephone line. Each mill had its own club and social highlights were weekly events, as was sport which played a large and important role as this account shows.

Then follows a history about the introduction of farming to the District and the settlers who immediately contributed so much to the general life of Tihi, as well as children to the school.

A sporting section reveals some outstanding facts and this is followed by a section with a variety of subjects. The setting up of the St. Paul's Venture School on the site of the former Tihi Mill then provides a step into the present day.

For a great deal of the pre-European history, a large measure of thanks goes to Perry Fletcher of Taupo who so willingly contributed from his written material about the Taupo region. Another to whom thanks is due is Ted Mason whose lucid accounts of the former era convey a wealth of information. He has also provided the map of the former access of Tihi. Special thanks to Paula Cherry for her draughting expertise with several maps.

Much of the publication consists of articles written by former and present residents and former employees, showing their different perspectives. They are possibly parochial to some degree, but nevertheless valid for their human aspect. Some information was provided in the form of notes or jottings and required composing but contributors are credited.

Reminiscences include those of former school teachers and pupils, those who established native sawmills, those who worked in them and well-known families. The district's development continued in other directions also and articles are included from the New Zealand Army, settlers under the former Lands and Survey Department land development scheme, the State Hydro Department local camp and the former Rabbit Board.

Some stories are complete in themselves and others are isolated statements. In some instances reductions of length have been made because of space or duplication. The duplications in material occurred most frequently with the still-fresh memories of the roads as they used to be! Placement of the articles has proved difficult in many instances due to overlapping of information and the varying time-frame of individual items.

It must be known that the dreams of Ngaire Albert gave substance to this booklet. A great deal of work associated with gathering material and sorting photographs fell to her lot as research co-ordinator.

The fact that I had lived at Waihaha Sawmill and had writing skills from my work with the New Zealand Herald led to my selection as Editor. My involvement has been directed at sorting and brushing up copy.

I hope there will be much pleasure gained from these accounts that serve largely as a social documentary of a rural way of life so recently lost.

I wish to thank all contributors and to apologize for any errors of omission that may have occurred inadvertently.

Alas, but understandably, no responsibility can be taken for the authenticity of articles.

Ann Rutherford  
Publication Editor

Taupo.

NB. It is with sadness that this goes to print as I am overseas.

## TIHOI

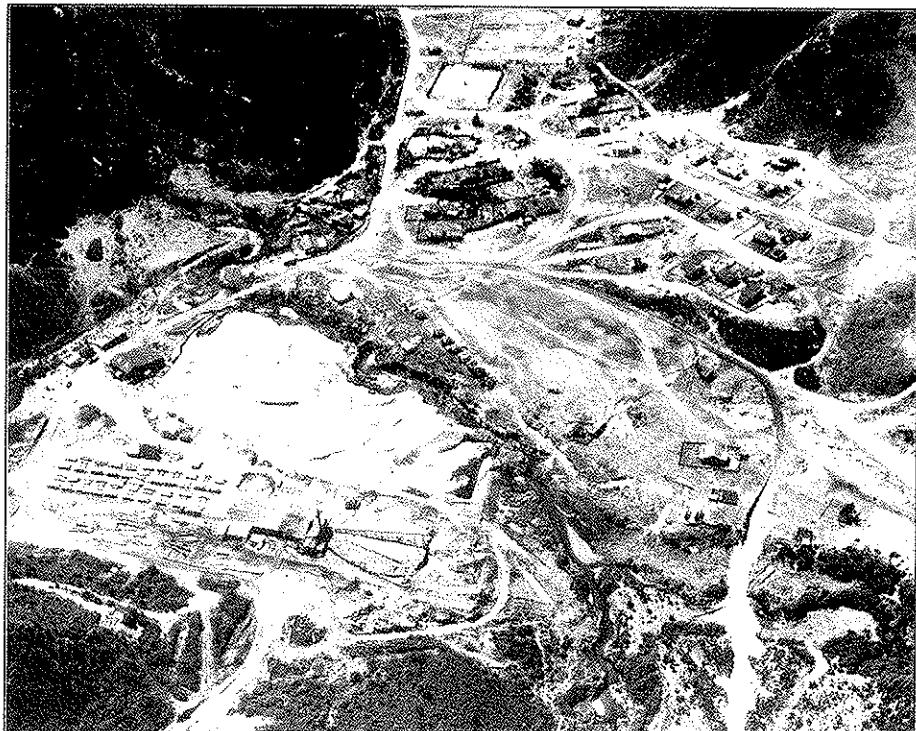
Tihoi, the site of the Tihoi Primary School, St. Paul's Venture School and the original Tihoi Trading Post was once the only open ground close to the bush and the ultimate site for a sawmill.

The altitude is about 579 metres above sea level. On the open Tihoi plains there once roamed wild horses, a reminder of Armed Constabulary days; to the West where the bush-land rises quite sharply into the hills of the Hauhungaroa Range which rise is 1165 metres above sea level, there were indeed many sawmills.

A notable feature of the land adjoining the Tihoi Mill site is the huge out-crop of rock rising for probably 300 feet and covering several acres. Towering above the flat in the Northwest direction on either side of the gorge are two strange shape rock masses - bush clad at the foot. On the Eastern face looking downstream, a sheer bluff outcrop rises for about 250 feet and overhangs the Huruhurumaku Stream.

On the opposite side rises an almost equally precipitous cliff, Tutakamoana. From the crest of Tutakamoana hill the land slopes gently away to the North-east, making the summit easily accessible from that side only. The chasm between the two cliffs looks as though it has been neatly carved out by the stream.

Geographically Tihoi is situated on the north-eastern 'foot' of the Hauhungaroa Range in the vicinity of the headwaters of the Mangakino River. It is just a five minute drive off State Highway 32 [often locally named the Western Bays Road], 35 kilometres south-west of the Whakamaru and 54 kilometres northwest of Turangi.

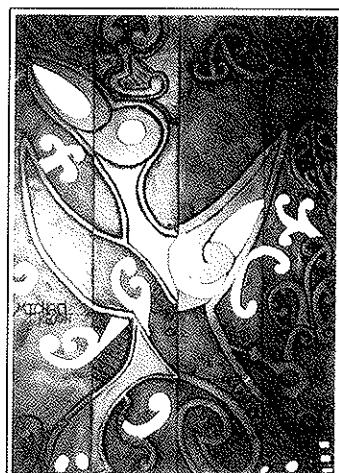


*Tihoi village 1953 showing sawmill, school, tennis court and cricket pitch.*

TIHEI MAURI ORA  
WHAKARONGO AKE AU,  
KI TE TANGI O TE MANU  
MATUI, TUI, TUI, TUIA  
TUIA KI RUNGA  
TUIA KI RARO  
TUIA KI TE HERE TANGA  
KA RONGO TE AO - KA RONGO TE PO  
TUIA I TE MUKA TANGATA  
I TAKEA MAII HAWAIKI NUI  
HAWAIKI ROA  
HAWAIKI PAMAMAOK  
KI TO HONO I WAIRUA  
KI TE WHAI AO  
KI TE AO MARAMA  
E NGA WAKA, E NGA MANA  
E NGA KARANGARANGA KEI WAENGANUI  
I A KOUTOU, HAERAMAI, HAEREMAI!  
E NGA MATE, KUA HURI ATU  
KI TUA O TE ARAI  
HAERE, HAERE, HAERE  
KIA TATOU KI TE HUNGA ORA  
TENA KOUTOU, TENA KOUTOU,  
TENA TATOU KATOA

Tihei mauri ora!  
I sneeze! I live!  
Hark, listen, the tui sings:  
Bind the sky above  
Bind the earth below  
Bind it to its oneness  
It is light  
It is darkness  
Bind it to our ancestors  
Who sailed from Hawaiiki Nui  
From the very distant Hawaiiki  
From the abode of the spirit  
To the new world  
To the world of light

- Matangi Hepi



*Carvings by Tihoi School 1990  
Form II pupils,  
M. Keogh, W. Ormond,  
M. Bowron and R. Cottrell*

## THE NAMING OF TIHOI

While still a child Tutetawha II had been told by his mother Waitapu that the death of her father Te Atainutai remained unavenged.

The death had been carried out by the Ngati Kurapoto, whose chief Turiroa lived at Ponui Pa.

Years later Tutetawha enlisted the aid of the Ngati Raukawa; he visited Te Whitipatoto and other chiefs of that tribe asking them to come to Taupo to avenge the death of his grandfather.

A war party was gathered which included recruits from Kawhia and it travelled to Taupo. A messenger met the party as it reached the shores of the lake and he said to Te Whitipatoto 'The word of Te Rangiita and Waitapu is that you must go to Maraekowhai and then continue from there to Ponui by canoe'.

Te Whitipatoto replied 'Tell Waitapu and her husband that I am travelling by land and not by canoe. If I am to take my enemy by surprise, then my path must be a hidden one'.

'Me TIHOI ake te Huarahi moku' so saying, he made a sweeping motion with his hand in the direction of the forest towards Oruanui. It was from this movement of this hand that the word Tihoi that the whole of that bush country was called Te Tihoi.

The Ponui Pa was attacked and taken. Their chief Turiroa escaped from a cave and ran along the beach and together with his wife Rauhaoto swam to a rock in the lake. Rauhaoto escaped with their child strapped to her back, by swimming to Wharewaka. Turiroa then went to meet his death, offering Tutetawha his own whalebone mere to strike him down.

## TIHOI CHRONOLOGY - P.T. Fletcher

1826	A huge expedition sets off from Tutakamoana Pa, several tribes endeavouring to establish themselves at Rotoatara in Hawkes Bay. Te Momo leads the Ngati Kohera.	1869	Te Kooti comes with Te Heuheu Horonuku. Sacks the village of Te Papa. The Ngati Tarakaiah is the only hapu not to follow Te Kooti to the Waikato. After the battle at Te Porere near Lake Roto Aira, Major Kemp's troops pursue Te Kooti followers through Tihoi and attack Te Weri Pa.
1839	Botanist John Carne Bidwill stays at Tihoi village and describes the Tutakamoana Pa. Rewi Maniapoto gives the chief Te Paerata his name meaning 'pilot'.	1870	Peponera Tamahiki is paid 61 pounds as compensation for food taken by Government forces. In January Te Kooti went on to Patetere on East Coast. Hitiri Te Paerata lives at Pokomutu [Te Kohera].
1841	Both Ensign Best and Ernst Dieffenbach stay in May and leave journal accounts of the area and people.	1870-71	Takiwa appointed as policeman.
1844	Artist George French Angas visits district.	1871	Ngati Te Kohera would not live at Te Papa because of Te Kooti. Went to Pokomutu.
1846	Te Heuheu Mananui killed in landslide at Te Rapa. Ngati Parekawa leaves kiangas at Omoho [Kawakawa Bay] to live in the bush edges of Waipapa and Kakaho until the time of the land wars.	1872	They are joined by Ngati Tarakaiah from Waihaha to go to Hiriwera's Tangi.
1854-56	Setting up the King movement.	1873	Hitiri goes with his hapu to Waipapa [Mokai side].
1856	Year of the Great Feast for setting up the King. Most of the Kereru or pigeons came from the Tihoi area for these feasts, after which it was considered that the ... 'forest was cursed as it was so depleted'.	1876	Manga's visit. A horse is presented to him.
1860-61	Ngati Te Kohera went to the Waikato from Tihoi until 1864 the battle of Orakau Pa where a great many of them were killed. Many refugees come into the district. Te Arawa places a boundary line to Tongariro where the Western Bays inland is considered Hauhau or hostile territory.	1877	Te Ako the sister of Tawhiao [the Maori King] arrives at Te Kohera from the Waikato with a large company of Ngati Raukawa and Waikato Maori.
1869	A half caste John Gage, seeks cattle lease at Te Papa for Tihoi area. [Te Papa stood on the Te Kohatu Block].	1880	Birds return to Tuaropaki Bush, a succession of Tohunga priests having attempted for years to lift the bewitching of that bush.
		1883	Kerry-Nicholls travels through the area.
		1884	Kipa of Ngati Te Rawharetua went away to Hauraki.
		1885	Tiki O Marama [Te Kohata Block]. A stockyard is built with timber from Pokomutu. Horseracing introduced to the area.
		1886	Taupo Land Claims began.
		1891	Kipa returns from Hauraki and works in the stockyard.
		1894	Te Kakaho meeting house built.
		1896	The 'Prophet' makes his home at Pokomutu.
			Renewal of old clearings and occupation by people from Waihaha.



Kakaho Pa c.1894

## TIHOI HISTORIC GENESIS - P.T. Fletcher

When the first Arawa explorers arrived they found the Ngati Hotu living around the whole area of Lake Taupo. Tia, the most famous of the inland explorers known as the first to lay out boundaries [in the 14th century] set out with a party from near Rotorua. He stopped at Karangahape while one of his sons, Oro, went on to Whanganui. Tia lived with the Ngati Hotu and in those times there were no fortified pa as the people lived peacefully; but after many years Tia's kianga became crowded by Ngati Kahu Pungapunga and Ngati Ruakopiri. Tia's grandson Hakukaunui drove them out and pursued them as far as Tuhua and the Whanganui River.

Returning with his people, Hakukaunui lived in a cave at the Kakaho. One day when crossing a stream he slipped and the feather ornaments of his Taiaha [spear] became wet, hence the name of the stream Huruhurumaku which runs from Tihoi to the Mangakino River.

One night the Ngati Hotu attacked his people in the house where they lived. Hakukaunui sprang out of his cave on to a rock and called to his people that he was safe and that they must continue fighting. They lifted their house post off its foundation and flung it on the Ngati Hotu, who were defeated and fled. Hakukaunui left and went to Maraeroa across the Pureora and built a pa there.

When Tamaio, an ancestor of the Ngati Maniapoto heard this he knew it meant land was being taken. He came and defeated the people and Haukaunui was killed there. The descendants then returned to Tihoi and were under the protection of others.

Several generations later when a section of Ngati Tuwharetoa was fighting Ngati Hotu for possession of land on the eastern and southern ends of Lake Taupo, one man, Tutetawha, sought further land beyond the Hauhungaroa Range. He too was prevented from access and went toward Tihoi instead.

It was to prove a meaningful decision for the Maori history of this region for he was the father of Te Rangiita.

## TRIBAL HISTORY OF THE TAUPU DISTRICT - P.T. Fletcher

### TE RANGIITA AND WAITAPU

The Mana lay on the west side of Taupo during the time of Ruawehea. After his death Te Rangiita was the chief of Taupo and he and his wife Waitapu lived at Maraekowhai here they brought up their children.

Their first child was Parekawa, then came Te Urukaihina, Te Piungatai and Toreiti and all four were daughters. Because the children were all females Te Rangiita left the mother and she said to him:- 'The mistake you make is you forget that the mouth of the Nukuhau is open for men to go through'. [Meaning that though the offspring were women, as such they would become the mothers of men]. Waitapu rose and went away to her father Te Atainutai at Wharepuhunga so that he might, through his karakia, cause her to bear a man child. Such were the practices of the Maori in those days - karakias were used to produce male or female children as desired.

After he had finished his karakia Te Atainutai sent Waitapu back again to Te Rangiita with instructions of how she was to proceed when having connection with her husband. After the act she was not to leave the whare before her husband had done so. He was to leave first.

On return to her husband at Maraekowhai, Waitapu carried out her father's instructions and soon after became pregnant. When near her confinement, she went back to her father so that he might deliver her of the child.

Ngati Raukawa were determined that Waitapu should not become the mother of a male child to Te Rangiita. When the child was born they gathered intending to kill it if a male child but to spare it if a female. Waitapu and her father determined to save it and when the people of Raukawa came in inspect it, the male organ was pulled down. The child was raised up and thus had the appearance of a female.

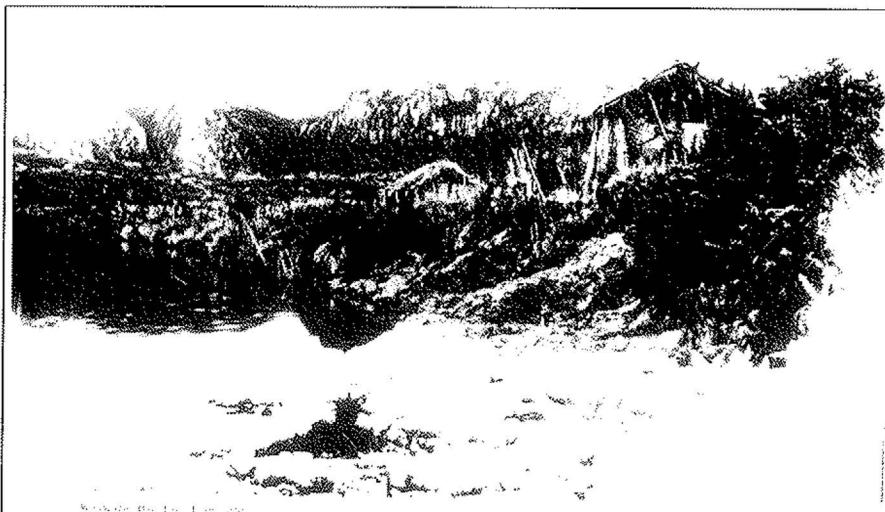
When the navel string came from the child the proper karakia was made by Te Atainutai. Waitapu returned to her husband who was delighted at being the father of a male child. They continued to live together and four male sons came to them - Tamamutu, Meremere, Manunui and Tutetawha II.

The children grew up on the land and separated. Tamamutu went to Motutere, Manunui lived at Pukawa, Tutetawha at Rangatira, Meremere at Pukawa and part of Hauhungaroa and Parekawa lived at Hauhungaroa and Te Tihoi.

Tamamutu proposed that he and his brothers and sisters should settle at Motutere but Parekawa said 'I'll remain here till I become an old woman'. Her husband was Ngahianga and they had a child Te Kohera. Te Kohera married Te Ketekiri, child of Turumakina and he and his wife came back to Maraekowhai. Their issue, Pakake married Parehingawatea and they had twelve children. Te Momo sprang from the descendants of Pakake.

Other important men descended from Kohera were Te Rawharetua, Te Kohika and Te Paerata.

Whanganui Bay 1898



## AN INCIDENT IN THE LIFE AND TROUBLED TIMES OF TE MOMO

- P.T. Fletcher

Te Momo lay on the ground, his wounded enemy Te Rawharetua by him. Te Momo had experienced bad days before. Life was not easy in the 1820s and his lack of diplomacy caused all sorts of trouble. This added humiliation in front of his people was worse than death by combat. Try as he could, Momo was unable to raise himself off the ground. This was the second time in quick succession Momo had been prostrate on the pumice... Four hundred metres away his fences were still to be seen smouldering on the cliff pa 'Te Weri' being the direct result of Te Rawharetua torching it.

Te Momo and his people had returned from the Waikato as refugees. The Ngati Te Kohera occupied Tutakamoana Pa at Tihoi and had told him that he should go elsewhere. To the north was a former Ngati Tarakaiahi fortress called Te Weri which had belonged to his grandfather's brother. It was that Pa site that Momo intended to fortify. His activity quickly drew the attention of the Ngati Taoi and their leader Rawharetua. Te Heuheu had earlier given them permission to reside nearby! Rawharetua was a descendant of Te Kohera and Pakake and with Ngati Taoi refugees from Mokoia, they sought to consolidate their occupation.

Their kianga 'Ohae' was across the stream in sight of Te Weri Pa. Rawharetua, being a person of action and few words had emphasised his presence and lack of consultation by burning down Te Momo's fences.

Te Momo pursued and overtook Rawharetua. They fought and Rawharetua knocked Momo to the ground and would have dispatched him to his ancestors had not Pehi Tuhourangi interfered.

'Te Momo is as a 'Tuakana turanga whanau' of Te Rawharetua, a descendant of Huatanga, and you are from his brother Tarakaiahi'.

Te Momo returned to Tutakamoana but not with a contrite spirit. Of course he was senior. Why should Rawharetua come with Ngati Taoi from Rotorua? Was not Tarakaiahi killed there? Now they crowd out Tarakaiahi's descendants at Ohae and covet the land.

He had been ejected from Tutakamoana over a trifling matter, a dispute over a woman, but this insult was Ngati Te Koheras' responsibility. So what if Te Heuheu gives strangers precedence to occupy. Te Momo's priorities are the foremost consideration. Do the Ngati Te Kohera so readily forget Te Heuheu's father Herea and his slaying of the women at the cultivations, when he came with the Maniapoto through the land? Is this not known as the 'Maroro kokoti ihu waka' - the flying fish cut off by the bow of the canoe - when the Ngati Te Kohera and Ngati Te Rangiita were slaughtered by them! A stand must be taken.

Support Te Momo and his people by driving out these usurpers so that no-one will dare try to advise or contest the mana of his people again.

Te Momo's grievance had the desired effect. The chiefs Te Kohika and Te Paerata gathered a war party of 'Taua' of the Ngati Te Kohera and Ngati Moekino to drive out the refugees. As well armed and numbered as they were, they met the Taoi outside Ohae waiting for them and spoiling for a fight.

As they got close together Rawharetua stood up disputing and with his taiaha in his hand he attacked Te Kurua who was armed with a 'tao' [short spear]. Kurua saw by the way Rawharetua was advancing that he intended to

injure him and he trailed the shaft of his spear on the ground.

Te Rawharetua then made a downright blow at Kurua's forehead. This was warded off and Kurua then thrust this spear through the body of his adversary.

Te Momo was standing by, but before he could act he was knocked off his feet and pinned to the ground by Rawharetua's wife Matekotai. Matekotai ran between Te Momo's legs and upset him she was a very large woman!

Rawharetua had been wounded in front of his people and Te Momo humiliated in front of his. Utu had been satisfied. Te Kohika and Te Paerata stopped the fighting and the parties returned to their kaingas.

About this time, a large war party was being assembled to march to Hawke's Bay. The Ngati Raukawa were anxious to establish themselves at Te Rotoatara. They enlisted the help of Te Paerata, Te Awaiti and Erita Te Hikapai of Ngati Te Kohera who were also partly Ngati Raukawa.

Te Momo was to lead the force and find land for himself and his people at Rotoatara. When seeking the support of Te Heuheu they were advised against the expedition.

'O Momo! Do not place your feet within the boundaries of Te Whatuiapiti. Paraihe and his sons are still at Te Rotoatara!'

Defiantly Momo and many of the chiefs said 'E, me haere-tatau kite iki tuna'! [Let us go and eat eels!]

The expedition departed leaving an enraged Te Heuheu who sent word ahead to the powerful Ngapuhi and Ngati Kakungunu chiefs at Te Mahia, saying, 'Do not let the ashes of Te Momo's fire take hold. Extinguish them'!

Te Momo dreamt that a star fell to the earth and he knew it meant himself. He concealed his dream least it should discourage the others. He did not tell them until they reached Poutu and it was too late to return as the taua had set out.

So Te Momo went from Te Weri to Rotoatara with his people, to keep his appointment with destiny.

## TUTAKAMOANA ANCIENT FORTRESS

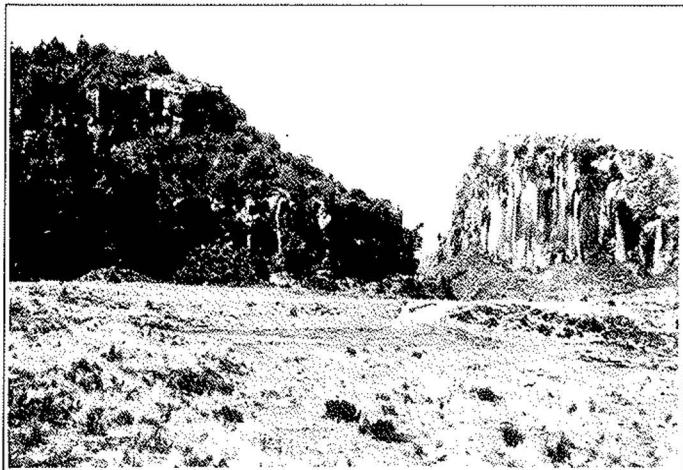
- Hilton Burgess

During the early 1950's I remember hearing stories about the stronghold Tutakamoana at Tihoi, told by old identities like Karu Tatana and Tini Hepi.

History had it that over the centuries Tutakamoana was never taken in battle and was considered impregnable. This is due mainly to the way it was created by nature, sheer rock on all sides, except for a spur on the north western corner which was the part most heavily fortified with palisades. Some of this palisading was taken to the Auckland Museum in 1940 and was believed to be the oldest known Maori Pa Palisading, dating from pre-European times.

Geologists have said the topography was probably formed after a volcanic eruption in the Whakamaru area around 250,000 years ago. Hot rock in the form of gas and liquid was blasted thousands of feet into the air and after cooling and solidifying, landed back on earth as solid ignimbrite rock. All the rock outcrops in the Tihoi area were formed this way.

Around 1820 a group of tribes from the Hawkes Bay area under the leadership of Chief Paraihe decided to take revenge on Ngati Raukawa for past injuries. A combined force of eight hundred warriors moved in the direction of Taupo.



Tutakamoana, stronghold of Parekawa people.

After a march of about nine days the force arrived at Opepe, ten miles from Taupo on the present Taupo-Napier road. [This was the scene of a later encounter between the Armed Constabulary and Te Kooti's followers in 1869]. There they camped for several days and practised their war dances. While so engaged, scouts of Ngati Tuwharetoa found them. Word soon spread throughout the district that Paraihe and his warriors were approaching. Several chiefs were recognised, their war dance too, was known as was as follows:

E mohe e

O !

E mohe e

O !

Tenei te ruru te koukou nei

Kei roto kei te tawhiwhi

Homai te here kia herea iho

Ki te here a Matukutangotango

I popokia ai ki te reinga

Kei te rakau a Haua

Kia whana, tahimaro huri na

Patu na Pawa ki te kereru

Tipi Iho i runga o te kaki

Koua tungoua

U ! U ! Aue !

Behold the rail bird

O !

Here is the owl that hoots

from the undergrowth!

Give me the knot that it be tied

With the knot of Matukutangotango

Anointed of the underworld

Behold ! Here is the spear of Haua !

Let it strike with strength

As Pawa struck the wood pigeon

And pierced it by the neck

Now it nods and beckons !

U ! U ! Aue !

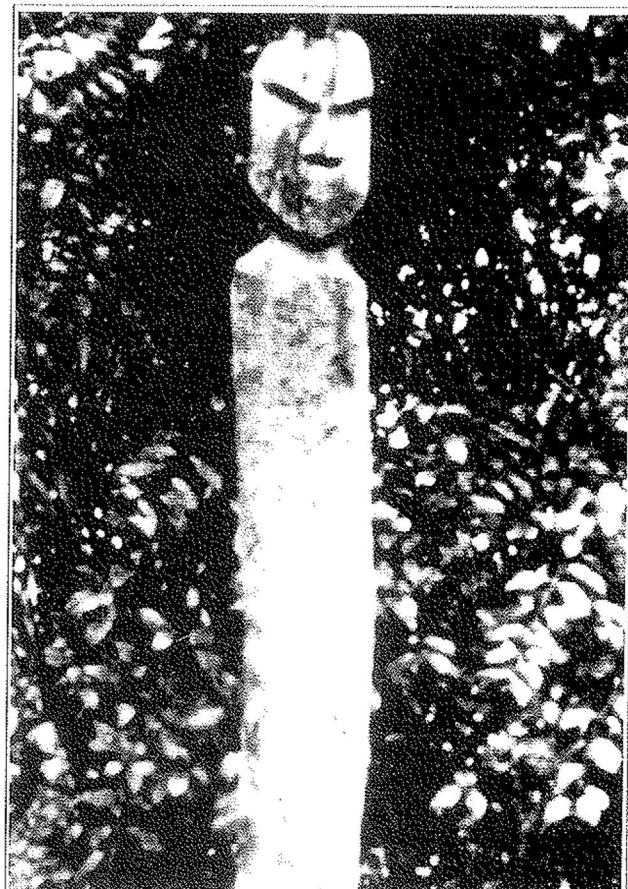
From Opepe the war party marched to Tapuaeharuru [now Taupo] where skirmished took place. They crossed the Waikato River and found their way to Omakukara, a stronghold west of Oruanui, some of the occupants were Ngati Raukawa refugees who had escaped Paraihe after previous battles. They were unprepared for the attack and it is thought that more than three hundred were killed including Te Whaunui and Matetahora of Ngati Raukawa. The majority of the people killed were women as the men had been in the forests hunting.

One man escaped and fled to Puketapu. Travelling to the stronghold Tutakamoana, he warned the people of the approach of Paraihe and his warriors. Quickly gathering themselves in at Tutakamoana and waited.

Soon the war party arrived and set about making arrangements for an attack, but finding the task was too formidable, decided instead to invoke the assistance of their tohunga and lay siege. This was unsuccessful. They then began singing jeering song hoping to enrage those in the Pa but the defenders, knowing their secure position, paid no attention to them. Realising that to remain too long outside the Pa would be unsafe as he was subject to attacks from other sections of Ngati Tuwharetoa, Paraihe decided to abandon the siege.

From Tutakamoana, Paraihe marched down the western side of Lake Taupo, a wilderness in those days, to Motuoapa Pa. Chief Te Heuheu thought he and his people were about to be attacked, but it was always Paraihe's intention to make peace with this proud chief; this was achieved. Paraihe wished to continue into Waikato country, but Te Heuheu persuaded him against this as he knew that Paraihe, strongly armed though he was, would meet disaster in those parts as Waikato, Ngati Maniapoto, and Ngati Maru, were expecting the raid and were waiting in their thousands to destroy him.

Paraihe heeded the warning and marched back to Hawkes Bay. [Some forty years later warriors marched from Tutakamoana Pa sixty odd miles, to the north west to take part in the famous Battle of Orakau against the British during the Land Wars].



Palisade from Tutakamoana fortress, now in Auckland Museum

## TUHUA HURAKIA WAIHAHA

Once Upon a Time - David Chrystall

Once upon a time there was a chief called Tuwharetoa who through seven generations descended from Ngatoroirangi the high priest of the Te Arawa canoe.

There came also on that canoe Tia and Kurapoto the ancestors to whom Ngati Tuwharetoa traces its right to land in the Taupo district.

It was through Tia that rights to occupation were defined and so there was born the name Tauponui a Tia - "The great cloak of Tai".

From Tuwharetoa through another seven generations there is the time of Te Rangiita. His eldest child was Parekawa and she was given all the land to the west.

Te Kohera was his offspring and Tarakaiahia a grandchild of Te Kohera.

Parekawa and Te Kohera lived on the Tihoi block but Tarakaiahia moved from there and went to live at Waihaha where he married Puia of Ngati Te Wheoro and Ruawhanga of Ngati Kiri.

## TUTAKAMOANA - THE MAN - Matangi Hepi

Maniapoto - Hinewhatihua

Tutakamoana - Rangipare

Rangatahi

Urunumia

Te Kanawa

Whati

Te Uaki

Paiaka

Raureti

Te Whakataute

Hepi Te Huia

Tini Hepi

Tutakamoana the man, was the son of Maniapoto and Hine whatihua. Like his father and forefathers on both his mother's and father's side, he was warrior chief. His father held the Mana Whenua from Mokau to Taringamotu, the Hauhungaroa - Hurakia Ranges to Titiraupenga, to Waitomo, and westward again to Mokau. We find the rock fortress of Tutakamoana situated within this triangle.

The Tihoi area belongs to the sub-tribes, Ngati Whakatere, Ngati Tarakaiahia, Ngati Parekawa and Ngati Te Kohera.

## THE WAIHAHA LANDS - David Chrystall

Following the land wars of the 1860s the Maori Land court presided over the imposition of European-styled titles on Maori ownership.

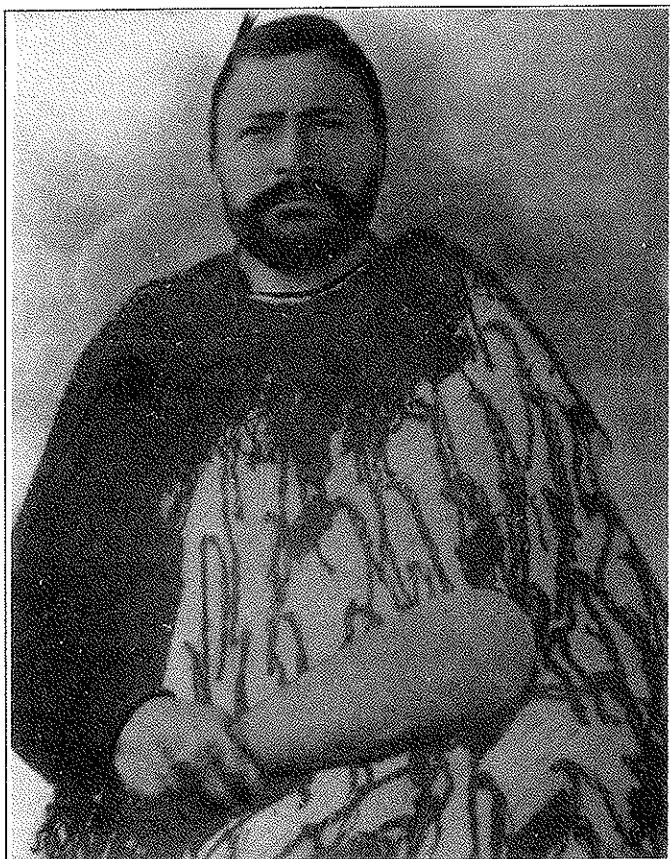
For those lands between the Hauhungaroa and the Western shoreline - Waituhi, Waihaha, Tihoi, Maraeroa, Hauhungaroa and Pouakani - collectively known as Tauponui a Tia West, the surveys, investigations, hearings and judgements occupied the decade 1887 - 1897.

The Tuhua, Hurakia, Waihaha subdivision circumscribed the Waihaha Lands as one block of 74,500 acres [30,162 hectares] that spanned the lakeshore from Waihora to Waikino [Te Papa] and inland to Tuhua and Hurakia on the western divide.

Over that decade an enormous amount of historical ground was covered. By use of landmarks - trees, rivers, rocks, mountains - boundaries were established and clai-

mants required to prove their rights through knowledge of caves, plantations, fishing and bird-snaring sites, Kainga and burial grounds contained within them.

The maps of that time recorded these landmarks and sites and many of the place names are no longer known or used today.



*Petera Hohepa (Tamahiki), a descendant of Tarakaiahia.  
Father of Te Moana Hohepa*

## CAIRNS FAMILY - David Cairns

Hariata Cairns is the daughter of Ani and Te Moana Hohepa and great grand-daughter of Petera Tamahiki, descendants of Ngati Tarakaiahia tribe. As a child her parents sent her to Ruatahuna to live because of a serious epidemic which struck this area and destroyed her brother and sisters thus making her the only survivor of the family.

In later years she returned from Ruatahuna to the Tihoi homeland of her ancestors with her husband Tuahuroa [Pake] Cairns and three young children Anne, David [myself] and Towai.

At first the family resided at Waihaha Bay growing potatoes, vegetables, pig hunting and fishing, until our father, relatives and friends had a home built and farm developed on Maurea, which I now work.

Dad was a hard worker and great shearer and with no woolshed at the time would hand shear and would help with the Burgess and Lands and Survey Department shearing also. He would take us for walks in the bush and teach us every bird, plant and native tree we came across. Mum was a strong, kind hearted woman and a lady of many talents, knitting, crochet, embroidery, making flax kits, piu-pius and taniko weaving. She embroidered the monograms for the Tihoi girls netball tee shirts and made many fine taniko belts for friends. Though her school

years finished at Ruatahuna primary her knowledge of education was brilliant.

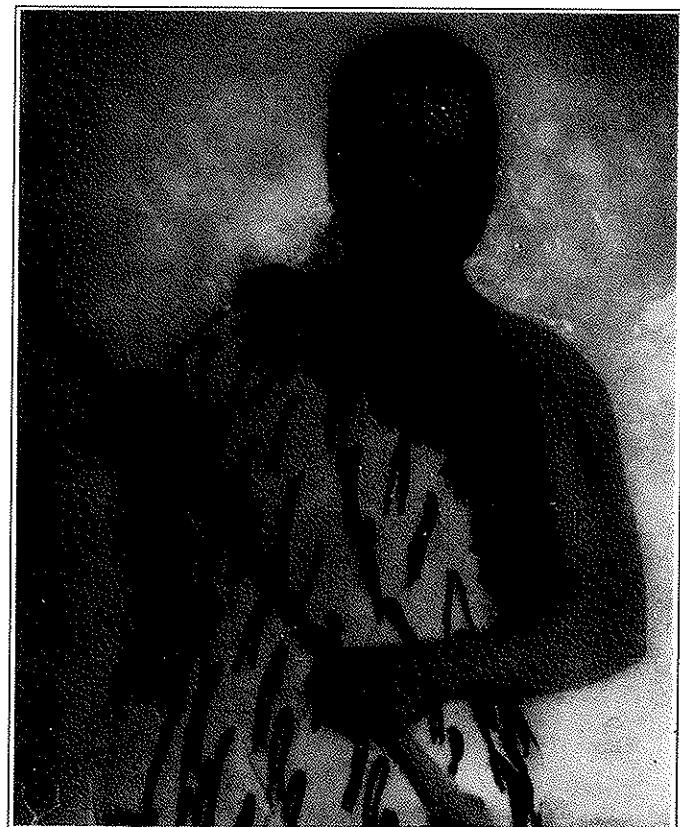
There are fifteen in our family - one half brother, three half sisters, one of which was a teacher at Tihoi school [Niki Albert] and two sisters adopted out. From the year 1953 only nine attended Tihoi school as pupils. Anne Akurangi, David, Towai, Rachael, Cassell, Harriet, Adrienne and Evelyn Cairns and Te Aroha Akurangi. From there to college and later to independent work but now they have returned home, some with their families. In coming back to the area we have brought in the second generation to Tihoi School; Dion and Hazel Cairns, Sonny, Wayne and Charlotte Ormond, Dave Rehu and the third generational so Jean and Charlaine Adams.

In the year 1941 we also had second cousins attend the school, Myra Turu, Janey and Rakau Karu, Jim, Mom, Ben and Polly Turei and Ben Tatana.

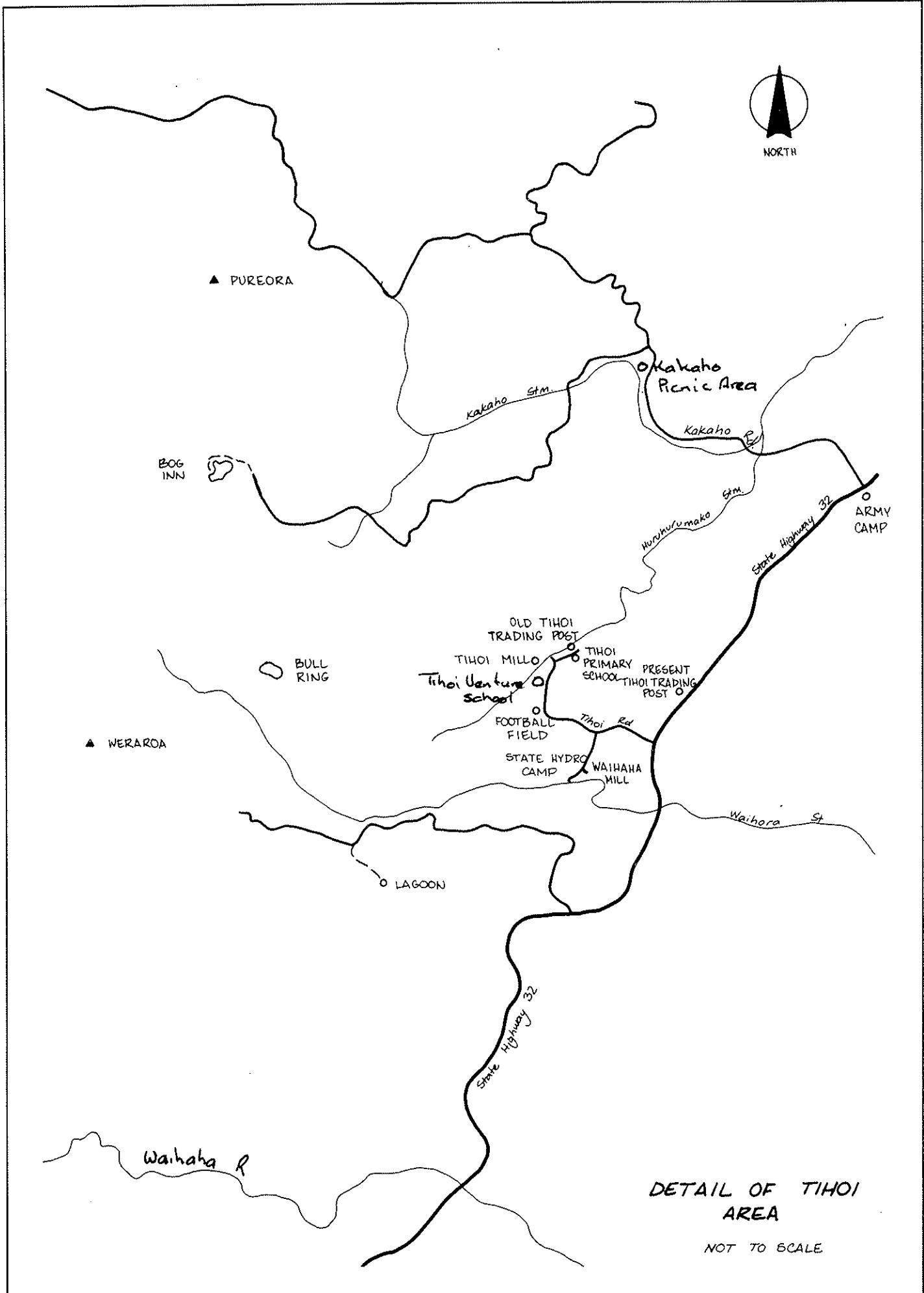
We as a family are very proud to have been given these values of identity and sense of belonging to the area through our ancestors.

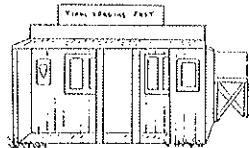


Paki Cairns handshearing in 1954



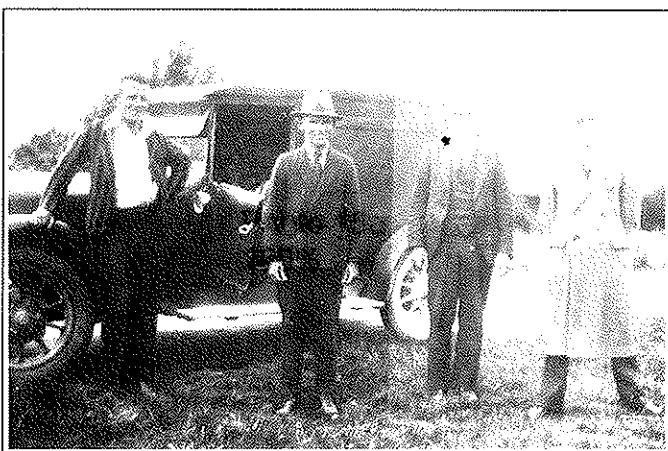
Te Moana Hohepa, father of Hazel Cairns





## TIHOI BLOCK AND THE BURGESS FAMILY - Ann Rutherford

Tihoi Block, once known as the Tutakamoana buffer block, saw the first settlement of Europeans in the area. Mollie Burgess and her son Warwick now live on the block and he is a grandson of William Burgess who in 1936 struggled his way through undeveloped land to reach the area. With him were his sons Chris, James and Ray and together they had travelled from Marton by train to Waimiha. They set off by foot to the Pithams' property enroute, borrowed horses and continued the 16 miles through bush and tussock up and over the Hauhangaroa Range to Tihoi.



*Tihoi Pioneers Bill Burgess and sons*

When the four men arrived at Tihoi there were no roads, no houses and no power. They spent their first night in a rough shelter roofed with old corrugated iron from a rotting punga whare of the Tutakamaona Pa.

The 4160 acre block which comprised 1200 acres of tussock and 2960 acres of bush had been separated out by the Government in 1876 to be a buffer zone to avoid fighting for ownership between tribes of the Tuwharetoa. The block was given to Maoris at Wanganui who then on-sold it to pakeha interests. Until the 1930s the land lay in its natural state, when a syndicate started to investigate the timber potential. Due to the slump the syndicate became bankrupt and William Burgess, a creditor, agreed to accept an interest in the land in lieu of payment.

A Taumarunui farmer with an understanding of timber, he was able to turn his hand to any practical task and with

effort and resourcefulness he was eventually to purchase the entire block.

The fortified pa site is known in Maori history as the pa never taken in battle. Situated on the west bank of the Huruhurumaku Stream at the summit of a towering cliff just north of the Tihoi Village, the pa proved impregnable in spite of many attempts. The palisades and gateway with its carved lintel were still standing when the Burgess' arrived and vegetable pits are still apparent. Historic relics were given to the Auckland Museum in 1940 with sanction of the Tuwharetoa Tribe and Mr Burgess. After that first night under iron, the Burgess family started immediately to split logs in an effort to pay interest on loans.

In 1939 the timber potential was realized when the Tihoi Timber Company [later formed into the Western Bays Timber Company] started milling the land. Production over the years mounted to 35 - 40,000,000 sawn feet of timber, mainly rimu. The royalties from this eventually enabled William to pay off his loans. Of the group of four Chris remained with his father to farm and develop a forestry planting scheme. Douglas Fir was chosen because at that time there was no treatment for Radiata Pine and also because the fire risk was lower in the fir plantings. Despite this some fires have occurred. Plantings have continued intermittently since then and farming continues.



*Chris Burgess overlooking Tihoi*

William and Chris have since died and Mollie and Warwick live in the original but enlarged cottage though the family spent some years at the brick house opposite the original Tihoi Trading Post and some years at the shop on State Highway 32.

### CHRIS BURGESS - Hilton Burgess

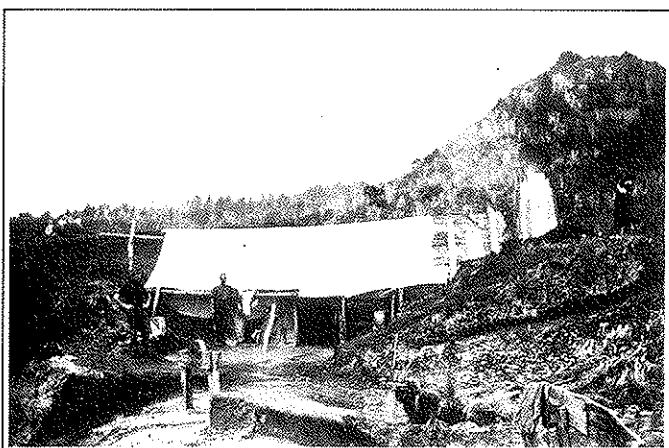
Over the years people were fascinated by Chris Burgess' knowledge of things 'Maori'.

This began when as a teenager in the 1920s Chris left the Rangitikei District where he was born and moved to the King Country to live with his Maori Aunt, Repeka Burgess.

This, from all accounts, was one of the most enjoyable periods of his life. Although times were tough then, part of this period being through the great depression, they lived on 'kai' such as kereru and karenga piro\*.

His aunt taught him to speak Maori, also to Hula and Haka.

Chris learnt many other things from her such as Maori herbal remedies e.g. Koromiko for dysentery. He was credited with curing a good number of the New Zealand Army from dysentery in the Pacific during World War II when



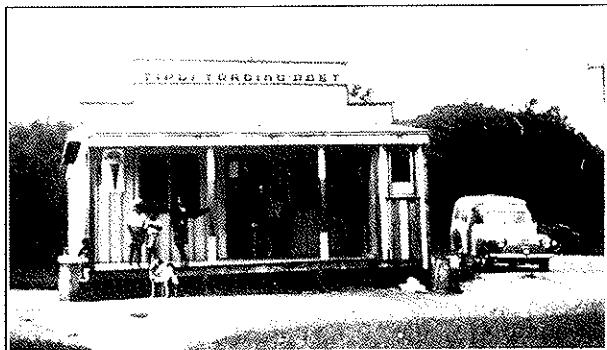
*Burgess Camp 1936*



Ripeka Burgess, aunt of Chris.  
Cousin of Te Moana Hohepa

he sent home for Koromiko. During the same period in the Pacific he taught the Army Kiwi Concert Party Maori action songs and Haka. He constructed a Waka for one of their performances in Fiji. It was Aunt Repeka's Kiwi Feathered Cloak and Greenstone Mere that were laid on Chris' coffin when he died in 1980. She herself had died some twenty years before.

\*Corn preserved in fresh running water.



Tihi Trading Post c. 1959

#### TIHOI TRADING POST - Ann Rutherford

The original Tihi Trading Post of Mollie Burgess, now sadly lying derelict and idle was for 24 years the nucleus of life at Tihi. It provided all manner of goods, stocking items from icecream to blankets with white-wear and other large items on request. In true country style the interior was packed tight with cartons, boxes, children, shirts, hats, saucepans - goods were stuffed into showcases built by a bush carpenter, hung from the ceiling, draped over the counter, with glimpses to be seen of similar goods in two rear storerooms.

When the Tihi Sawmilling Company started operation in 1939 the company built a shed to be used as a co-operative store but this remained idle for seven years. At this stage Mollie, after a grim winter at Tihi with her first son, living in a two-roomed cottage with perpetual wet clothes in front of a wood stove, baby's pram in a corner, no electricity and suffering from isolation, decided to return to Taupo to live. But the mill manager approached her and asked to take over the empty shed "leg-rope your baby and we'll find a girl to look after him" he said. The company agreed to guarantee any bad debts, so Mollie went shopping - she stocked the building and business boomed.

Many items in 1946 were still rationed and dried milk, the most essential item was unobtainable until Mrs Burgess personally visited the milk factory, explained the situation and had it rectified.

Two years later when the Trading Post was opened Mollie, now with a second son, hoped to keep set hours. At 2pm daily families were expected to shop and at 7pm three evenings weekly the store opened for workers. Electricity was not yet available and a petrol-driven refrigerator was used and evenings were lit by three Coleman Lamps that required white spirits and hand-pumping - a regular ritual. So much for plans to keep to a strict routine with hours. The shop acted as a pivot to those living at Tihi and it seldom kept to its set hours.

A week in training for postal work was taken by Mollie so that in 1955 the smallest Post Office in New Zealand was opened - all two feet by three feet of it, with a mailing slot so small that envelopes required folding. A full postal service was offered and a sizeable amount of cash was carried to be sufficient to cash the Lands and Survey Department pay cheques when payday was once a fortnight.

Mollie claims to have been the only shop to have taken a man's leg across the counter and this occurred when Charlie Tatana, a war casualty requested that his wooden leg be posted to Auckland for alterations. It was a difficult parcel to wrap.

With ever-giving cheerfulness the shop was always opened for necessities and some customers would be given the keys to help themselves. Weekly for 21 years goods to stock the shop were purchased by Mollie's husband Chris, very often accompanied by Mollie and their shopping was mainly carried out in Hamilton. However once the roads started to improve in 1969 perishables were delivered to the door. At this time a petrol pump was installed.

The Burgess family moved to their brick house opposite the shop about 1960 and in 1972 the business was transferred to a site on State Highway 32. A few years later St. Paul's Collegiate School purchased the brick house for part of its Venture School.

In 1981 after 45 years the business was sold.

Remembering days past Mollie recently mentioned local folk who used to give her a hand. "Daphne De Knecht would push a pram possible five miles once each week to get to the shop. Rena and Boydie Rata also helped weekly when I went to town shopping, as did Glenys Rata and Mary Brown who lived with me and Rangiwaihi Nicholls. Several teachers used to come after teaching and work on the dockets in the early days or on the adding machines later.

Even a tutor from St. Paul's would pump petrol when Chris took laundry and other items to Hamilton for the school", she said. Ngaire Albert was another helper when the shop was situated on the highway.

Now living again in her original although enlarged cottage, Mollie exudes kindness and charm and delights in news of friends once resident at Tihi and now scattered. "Boredom is as great an evil as the exhaustion of the muscles" she quoted.

## THE LAST DECADE OF THE TIHOI TRADING POST

- Coral Sherrard

The Burgess' leased the Tihi Trading Post to Terry and Pat Pahl in May 1981. It then consisted of a Post Office, petrol station and grocery store. The wholesale delivery truck came on a Wednesday with boxes and boxes of goods.

Good working clothes could also be bought at reasonable prices too. The Post Office was closed as uneconomic the following year.

Kim and Jenny Mason bought the lease from the Pahl's and continued with the pumps and groceries. Jenny was a hairdresser and Kim a plumber and the district made use of these skills.

On December 7, 1984 Pat and Frances Keogh took over the lease of the Trading Post, for a change of lifestyle in the country. Pat straight away set up a garage operating two days a week. It expanded to such an extent he employed Jason Albert as an apprentice mechanic until his accidental death in May 1988.

In October 1987 the Keogh family also diversified in hot takeaways, employing Rangi Packer as a cook at busy times. In the time the Keogh's have been in Tihi, the Trading Post changed from being mainly a grocery-petrol outlet to servicing the travelling public to a greater degree.



Tihi Trading Post 1972

On September 6 1991 their venture, the Tihi Family Tavern opened. This provides an ideal meeting place for locals and travellers alike.

In June 1992 a fire gutted the Trading Post and plans are underway to reconstruct the building and have it open during 1993.



Chris and Molly Burgess 1942

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TIHOI SAWMILL AND ROADING ACCESS

A.L.MASON From his son Ted Mason

Jim Mason, after schooling in Wanganui tried his hand at teaching, worked on a farm and then took up law. In the late 1920s he became a solicitor in Putaruru and in 1936 saw Tihoi for the first time. A deal was struck with the Burgess family for the cutting of native timber and a company was formed with Jim and his older brother John as major partners, the formation being completed the day before the start of World War II, in 1939. Mill construction began in October 1939 and it was producing timber in January 1940.

At the end of the war a depot was set up in Putaruru, leading to the formation of PTY Industries. This company grew to be one of the leading and innovative timber Groups of New Zealand. He was Chairman and Manager Director of the Group until he retired in 1973, when the Group was sold to Winstone Ltd.

Jim Mason lived in Auckland for many years but is now living in England at 87 years is still fit and well.

### THE ORIGINAL TIHOI TRACK - Ted Mason

A.L. (Jim) Mason says that his first trip to Tihoi on the back of a post-splitter's truck followed a track that was used by splitters who were already working there.

Those were the days before concrete or treated pine fence posts were available, so there was a living to be made from producing Totara posts and battens. Usually the splitters only had access to fallen trees, but sometimes a good Totara would be felled by mistake!! They would use a crosscut saw and wedges to cut the appropriate lengths, then would split them into posts and battens using a wooden maul and wedges. It was tough work for tough men.

The posts would then be loaded onto a truck, (stacked across the vehicle which meant that chassis runners were required but not a deck) and they would be carted out to be sold. Roads were not usually formed, instead the truck would pick its way cross country and would cross streams by using boards, posts or anything to make some sort of a temporary crossing.

That is why Jim Mason talked about a nightmare first trip from Mokai to Tihoi, perched on a couple of loose boards on the back of the truck, on a cold frosty night, and taking about 2 hours to do it.



Matai bridge over TeRerengongaio Stream, about 50 metres upstream from the present bridge.

### ROAD ACCESS - 1930s - A.L. Mason (Jim)

My first visit to Tihoi happened in 1936 when I went to see Bill Burgess about leasing a suitable piece of bush for milling purposes. The journey involved a trip by car to Mokai and then arranging a lift to Tihoi with the post-splitters who were operating their motor trucks in the district at the time. When we had decided on Tihoi as our milling area a road had to be put through to Mokai for carrying out the milled timber. Building the road from the mill site to Mokai was not quite as simple to carry into effect as it may look today. The rough formation of the fourteen miles of road across the Tihoi Plains was deceptively easy to complete. In fact, dry-weather access for cars and lightly laden trucks was available within four weeks from the start.

But the task of establishing all-weather surfaces and bridges for heavy traffic was much more difficult. While at first sight there appeared to be a heavy covering of pumice over the whole area, many of the cuttings which had to be made in order to achieve satisfactory gradients, went right through the pumice into soft mud, which had to be consolidated with rock and heavily blinded with pumice. Furthermore, the Tihoi Plains proved to be an area of heavy rainfall in winter and a playground for occasional boisterous thunderstorms in the summer, so that many of the original bridges and culverts had to be

replaced at considerably higher levels.

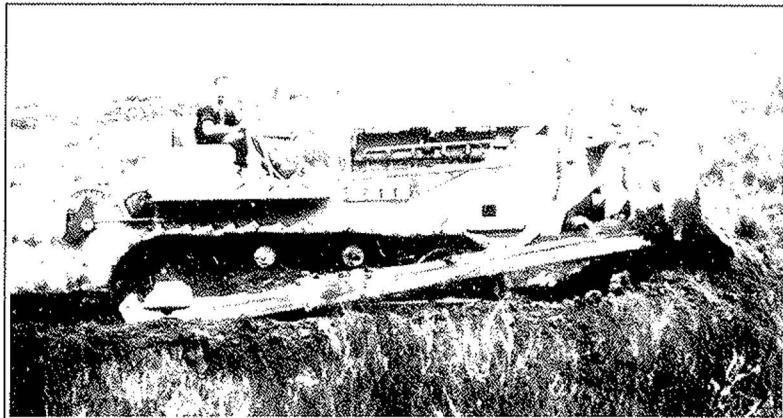
In one year the mill rain-gauge recorded a total of 114 inches and, in one memorable thunderstorm over five inches of rain was recorded in four and a half hours - an event which kept us out of touch with the outside world for several weeks.

All this added up to the fact that we had undertaken a venture which was not without its challenges. Quite apart from the economic hazards which were inseparable from milling native bush we had to maintain exceptionally long stretches of road - not only our own road, but quite often the River Road from Mokai to Atiamuri as well.

Taupo County, in those days, was nothing more than a large area on the map: it had no ratepayers and no County Council and such work was carried out by the then Public Works Department.

In retrospect, the transport costs plus road maintenance of getting our timber from mill to rail must have amounted to fully one third of net wholesale value. Seeing that most of our competitors' mills were either on the rail or close to it, we were clearly obliged to 'make up on the roundabout what we lost on the swings'.

On the credit side, we had good timber, much of it with an exceptional yield of higher grades at a reasonable rate of stumping, a long cutting life, a lot of fresh ideas and boundless enthusiasm.



### CONFRONTATION IN A CUTTING - Ted Mason

A.L [Jim] Mason tells the story that was told to him by Mr Khan, who was an owner of Tutukau Sawmilling Company. He lived in Rotorua, and the mill, in its early days, used the old Tihoi road.

Khan drove a black Packard and was coming from the mill, and met a truck owned by G.G. Ranger Limited of Putaruru, which was going to the mill. They met just west of Mokai in a long narrow cutting which was originally formed as part of a bush tram for one of the Mokai mills. Khan was an Indian and the truck driver, Pat Coyle, was an Irishman who stammered. They discussed the situation and Khan told Coyle, perhaps somewhat tactlessly, that he should back out to let Khan through. Coyle reacted badly, and stammered: 'N-n-no you b-b-bxxxx b-b-bxxxx I w-won't g-g-go back'. So Khan sat in the car, turned his radio on and prepared to wait. Coyle did likewise and the two of them sat in their vehicles, radios blaring, and glaring at each other. Very soon though, Khan gave up because he could not stand the 'awful boop boop music' emanating from the truck. Khan backed out, allowed Coyle through, then was able to continue on his way.



Approaching the Banana Bridge over the Waihaha River.

On the road to Tihoi there was a floating bridge. When logging trucks drove over, the outside wheels of the truck and trailer would hang over the edge, especially when the truck had a full load.

One day father took mother on one of his trips and with a full load on the way to the mill they approached the bridge. Mother made him stop. She got out of the truck and CRAWLED across. Father drove over the bridge, picked her up and carried on to the mill.

Winnie Fowler [Norman]

*Constructing the road to Tihoi 1939 showing the vegetation in the background. Driver's right hand is on the master clutch which was manual and he developed large muscles on the right arm.*

### ROADS - Ted Mason

I grew up in Putaruru, and my earliest memories of Tihoi would be around 1944. The things that come to mind first are the roads and the desolate landscape.

I think it was normally about a 2 hour 20 minute trip from Putaruru by car, travelling to Atiamuri first, then turning onto the River Road to Mokai, and just before Mokai the Tihoi road began.

There was tar-seal as far as the Forestry Hill [Maungaiti], and that was a super highway by comparison, even though the bitumen was quite narrow. The rest of State Highway 1 was metalled, but the River Road and Tihoi Road were pumiced. Pumice makes an excellent surface when newly graded, but rain, frost and traffic soon create corrugations and scouring, and then it is not so good. The Tihoi road was not of Class 1 construction and drainage was inadequate in the numerous swampy areas. Any water that lay on the road soon turned into a wet patch and then a pot-hole. It was common to see, in bad weather, the wheel tracks snaking from side to side, dodging the holes and seeking better ground.

Few vehicles had coil springs in their suspension until after World War II, instead they had leaf springs. These not only shook your teeth out when a pot-hole was encountered, but also frequently broke when fatigued. The vehicle could usually still proceed, but with a considerable list to the afflicted side.

Around 1949, when Maraetai dam was built, but before Whakamaru was begun, I drove with my parents to Whakamaru to look at the possibility of a new road from Whakamaru to what is now Marotiri School. There would be several miles saved and about an hour in time on the trip between Tihoi and Putaruru. Since almost all the timber from the mill was going by truck to Putaruru to be loaded on the rail, this saving would be significant.

The Waikato River at Whakamaru was quite narrow at one point, and there was a wooden bridge spanning it. Once across the river you could go to Mangakino but, I think nowhere else. The Lands and Survey and Maori Affairs development of the Pouakani and Kahu Blocks had not begun, so this area was largely uninhabited.

The Western Bay Timber Company formed the road from Whakamaru to Marotiri in the early 1950's and the Government eventually took over the ownership and maintenance of the road, but never compensated the company for the cost of it.

### ROADS TO TIHOI - Hilton Burgess

The earliest access into Tihoi was by foot, over tracks used for centuries by early Maori.

The first European settlers, the Burgess' came by foot and horseback. In 1936 after travelling by train from Marton to Waimiha on the eastern side of the Hauhungaroa Range, they walked east along the Ongarue River cutting a track through the bush to the top of the range and down on to the clearing known as the bullring, eventually reaching Tihoi: a desolate spot at that time, no buildings, just scrub, tussock, and rock, the previous inhabitants long since gone.

The earliest vehicle access was across the old post road from Opa just south of Tihoi in a north easterly direction to Mokai, the railhead. Parts of the old post road can still be seen just east of the new Tihoi Trading Post. The road came into being through the action of post trucks driven during the 1930s over the tussock plains, across streams as there were no bridges.

During this period a bullock team operated by the Turei clan could be seen wending its way along this track carrying out posts stacked on the wagon and bringing supplies back from Mokai.

In 1939 when the Western Bay Timber Company began milling timber at Tihoi, the first formed road was bulldozed in from Mokai.

Ten years later a more direct route was required for transporting timber to Putaruru, so a road was formed from the Marotiri corner to Whakamaru.

These were private roads as was the telephone line and had to be maintained by the timber mills. At times during the winters when maintenance had got slack the roads were almost impassable, a shovel was often needed to dig one's way into Tihoi. In the early days, wild horses roamed over the wilderness area between Tihoi and Mokai and you had to be careful especially at night that a spooked horse didn't jump off a bank and wreck your vehicle.

In 1947 the road was pushed two miles south so another timber mill could be built near the Waihora Stream. Soon after, the State Hydro-Electric Department pushed the road further south to Kurutau so the Whakamaru to Bunnythorpe High Transmission Line could go in. A feature of this road was the Banana bridge across the Waihaha River built on top of 44 gallon drums full of concrete just above the rapids and down stream from the new bridge. This road was little more than a maintenance track and was often washed out.

After the war the Government of the day talked about building the Victory Highway, a great motorway down the western side of Lake Taupo which would eventually extend between Auckland and Wellington by the most direct route. This turned out to be a pipe dream, but in 1961 a less grandiose highway was under construction from the Kurutau end. The highway followed the general line of the old state hydro track leaving Tihoi out on a limb and eventually in 1968 reached the Marotiri Junction.

The new highway gave better access to land development schemes on the western and northern edges of Lake Taupo.

In order to reach the new highway from Tihoi it was quicker to head south, so in 1966 the present route off the highway was formed. The old northern route was closed off where it connected with the new highway opposite the Whangamata Road junction.

#### INSURANCE CLAIM - Ted Mason

Appletree bridge was for many years a mile post on the road. Now a cutting goes through the hill on the south bank of the river, but originally the road came through a small cutting at the top of the hill and quite high above the stream, then wound down to the bridge. For many years there was a heap of sawn timber visible below that cutting, on the edge of the river.

The story was told that a certain truck operator was making his way out with a load of timber and, just as he came through the cutting, he realised there were flames coming through his floorboards. He looked down to see what was happening and by the time he looked up again the truck was headed over the bank. He just had time to save himself by jumping out, but could not save the truck. It seems the insurance company discovered he was having difficulty meeting his debts and did not believe his story. They never paid out.

#### LANDSCAPE - 1944 - Ted Mason

As far as I can recall there was no farming south of Kinleith, and even around Tokoroa the farms looked poor.

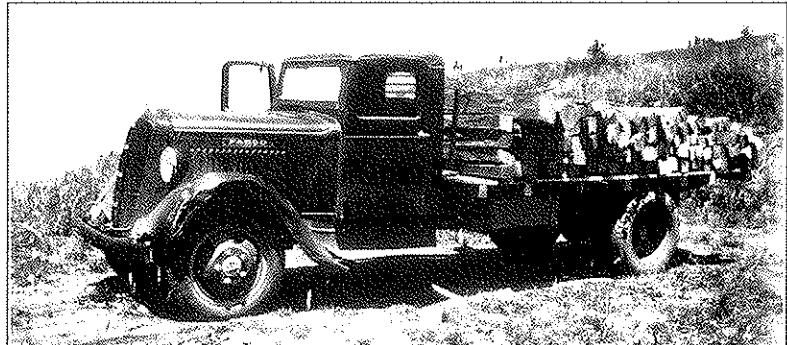
On the River Road [now Tirohanga Road, more or less], and through to Tihoi, there was desolate landscape covered by tussock, heather and occasionally broom, with very little manuka. The only inhabitants were rabbits and wild horses. It was claimed that neither of the species was worth catching; the rabbits because they were so skinny they were inedible, and the horses because their diet was so poor they had no stamina. Nonetheless, I recall seeing the inhabitants of Tihoi and Mokai catching and breaking in wild horses.

There were no trees in the open country, except for odd pine trees sown from windblown seed and this gave the desolate appearance. The only native forest was on the tops of hills and ridges much as they are now.

In my lifetime there has been a dramatic transformation from that desolate, cold and empty country to an attractive, well farmed and well planted countryside.

During the years previous to 1938, posts and other fencing timber were conveyed from the bush by bullocks and horses to a position where trucks were loaded with them just outside the bush and sometimes the trucks went into the bush to load posts.

The late Bill Burgess



Trucking Posts to Mokai before a timber mill was built.



Capturing wild cattle beasts.

## THE BULLOCKS

The story of the bullocks during the war years as told to Sally Millington by Patrick Gannon of Bennydale.

'There were four of us, Karu Tatana, Kumeroa, John Wereta and myself. We camped for six weeks near the old Pa at Kakaho called Le Long's camp.'

'The reason for the camping there was to hunt wild cattle behind the old Pa, using the dogs to round up the cattle. Kumeroa started talking in Maori. An old blue roan bullock with great long horns skirted the mob, coming up fairly close. Kumeroa kept talking and chanting in Maori. He then proceeded to walk up to him to the amazement of the Pakeha.'

'Kumeroa then told the story of this great beast.'

"The big quiet blue roan bullock had a mate who was, as the story goes, a big red roan". Where the great red was at this stage nobody knows. "The first paddock on Mr Burgess' property ever to be ploughed was by these two magnificent animals. It was the five acre paddock near the old house with the large flatgully".

'Kumeroa and his friends also used these animals to plough their own gardens which grew a large range of vegetables along with some mighty fruit trees of all descriptions.'

Two days later the foursome caught a bull along with eleven head of younger stock plus eight or nine yearling brumbies. The four of them left to travel to Mokai twenty miles away towards the north east. For the journey Old Blue was tied to the young bull and while crossing Apple Tree Bridge the young bull took fright, partly falling over the edge.

'Kumeroa again started talking and chanting in Maori calling the young bull down while asking Old Blue to pull him up. This he did with all his strength'.

The four camped at Mokai for two or three days before going their separate ways. 'Old Blue took off back in the direction of Tihoi where I guess he finished his days', said Mr Gannon.

## TIHOI SAWMILL - Ted Mason

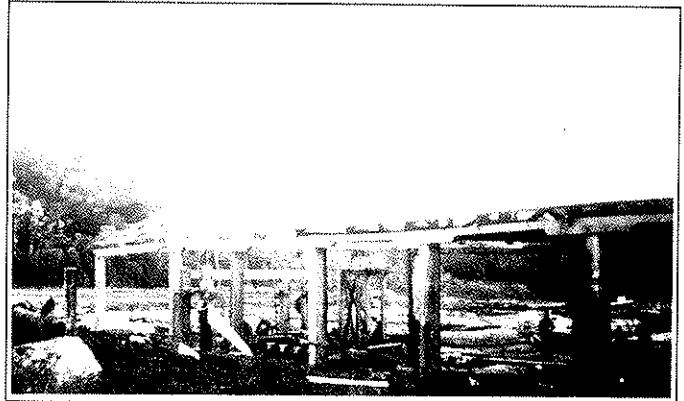
The original mill came from near Taumarunui and consisted of a small semi portable internally fired boiler, horizontal steam engine, a twin circular saw breakdown and breast bench. Soon a small deal frame for board production was added.

By 1944 a larger power plant was required and a multi-tubular boiler and furnace were installed, together with a much larger steam engine. The furnace was fuelled with slabs from the mill.

The steam engine drove a large flywheel, possibly 8 to 10 feet in diameter, set partly below ground level. The main belt around the fly wheel was probably 12 inches wide and drove the whole mill through a series of belts and pulleys.

The steam engine sounded like a steam train and the chuffing could be heard throughout the settlement. When the mill was really under load the chuffing would grow louder and more determined and sometimes the mill would almost stall, until part of the load was shed when a saw stopped cutting.

Slabs or offcuts were stacked on a trolley and it was the slabby's job to run them out to the fire, dropping any required for the boiler on the way. Sawn timber went out the other end of the mill, also on a trolley, into the yard.



Mill Construction 1939

There, two sets of railway lines ran between the skids and the trolley man would sort and offload the timber onto the appropriate skid. This would depend on size, grade and species of the timber. There, the yardman would measure and add to the tally.

Sawdust left the mill in troughs that ran under each saw. Running water washed it out of the mill to a junction where it continued in a chute to the sawdust heap. Despite the chute being moved regularly the heap grew quickly and bulldozers would spread it. Once a large diversion was made to the river to make more space.

It would have required about eleven men to operate the mill, including the log skiddy and yardmen. Names I can remember about the end of the war include Bob Beckett the manager, Turei Hohepa, Tom Barber, Rongo Paerata, Doug and his brother, Rangi Rata and several sons, Syd Peacock [boilerman] and the Charlie Dean [bush foreman] and Heta Stevens in the bush. Noel Burrow was the mechanic.

The settlement had eighteen to twenty houses by the early 1950s, including the schoolmaster's, although some of the early, basic models were no longer in use.

In the post-war period production increased and so did the efficiency of the mill. I worked there for a short period in 1959 when Howard Nairn was manager. Slabs were taken out on a conveyor but not a lot had changed; the houses had electricity provided by a diesel generator which made living at Tihoi less of a privation.

At that time I recall Snow Coleman and his wife who ran the cookhouse, Bert Duff was benchman, his brother Tom Duff on the log breaking down, Henry Rivers was skiddy. Others included Jimmy Rivers, Ray Henare and Reg Whare.

The mill burned down in 1960 and was totally destroyed. It was well-insured and a new, totally different mill was built. Electricity was now available so no boiler and steam engine was required, nor were the belts, shafts and pulleys; instead there was a large investment in power supply and switchboards.

The mill, with a smaller staff had the same output as the old one and continued virtually unchanged until it closed in 1976.



Log hauling



Tihoi Mill workers 1953

### THE GARAGE AND THE BURROWS COUPLE - Ngaire Burrow and Ted Mason

A decision to operate their own transport caused the Tihoi Sawmilling Company Limited to build a manpower garage. In 1942 it applied to the "Manpower" authorities for a proficient carpenter to construct the building.

Lance Churchouse was the man chosen for the job and he remained with the company to become builder of a small planing mill. The garage/workshop at Tihoi was named the West Taupo Garage.

In 1946 Noel Burrow became the mechanic, doing repairs to mill machinery, trucks, and equipment. Noel lived across the road from the garage, as did single school-teachers, that building later to become the Post Office.



Jack Rata and Noel Burrows 1951.

Gunderson, now known as Hart House. About 1954 they shifted to Putaruru where Noel set up B.M.W. Industrial Services Limited and worked for PTY on their forklifts and other machinery.

Ngaire, during her time at Tihoi had been involved with the operation of the Social Club together with teacher Phil Amos.

Noel's wife Ngaire arrived at Tihoi in 1950, thinking to be idle after 20 years of work. This was not to be, as the following week she found herself employed by the then Western Bays Timber Company operating the small Post Office which was run in conjunction with the mill office. The office was on the hill behind the mill and later was operated a few hours morning and afternoon at Noel's previous living quarters.

On her arrival Ngaire and Noel Burrow moved to a new house beside Jack and Iris

### BOB BECKETT - Ted Mason



Bob Beckett with Pluto

Most young and able men went off to the war leaving a real labour shortage, particularly in an isolated place like Tihoi. The war time emergency regulations invoked by the government included 'manpowering' which involved people being directed to work in certain key industries, and the timber industry was one of them. This meant that some of the staff recruited to Tihoi didn't want to be there and were not satisfactory. But others were real finds, and one of them was Bob Beckett.

Bob came as a benchman and it was not too long before he was appointed mill manager. During his time, Tihoi grew as a community and he had a big influence on the development of sporting activities. There were two tennis courts built, using a pumice surface, a football team took part in the Taupo competitions, as did a cricket club operated in the summer months on a pumice pitch in the middle of what was then the football field.

Under his guidance Tihoi was a lively and active community.

Ted Mason prepared the map showing the position of the 'Tihoi Road' in its earlier form. Being unsure of parts of the route he went back along the road to check its route...

### THE TIHOI ROAD - Ted Mason [Refer Map]

The new road was largely formed and the realignment done by 1963, but had not been started in 1959. The road was improved by straightening the kinks and very much by putting cuttings through the hills rather than having to climb over them.

Most of the way between Tihoi and Marotiri there are old telephone poles, now unused, marking the line. These are not the original poles but must have been installed in the late 1940s or early 1950s, and they helped to confirm the road line at that time.

The site of the Matai Bridge was just below the old Waimanoa Road and upstream from the present bridge which is incorrectly named Tererengaongaio. As the map shows,

that steam is the next one where the Appletree Bridge was.

I discovered Appletree Bridge about 100 metres upstream [east] of what is now called Swampy Bridge. It is unsafe for vehicles but mostly intact and, of course, has not been used except by stock, for 30 years.

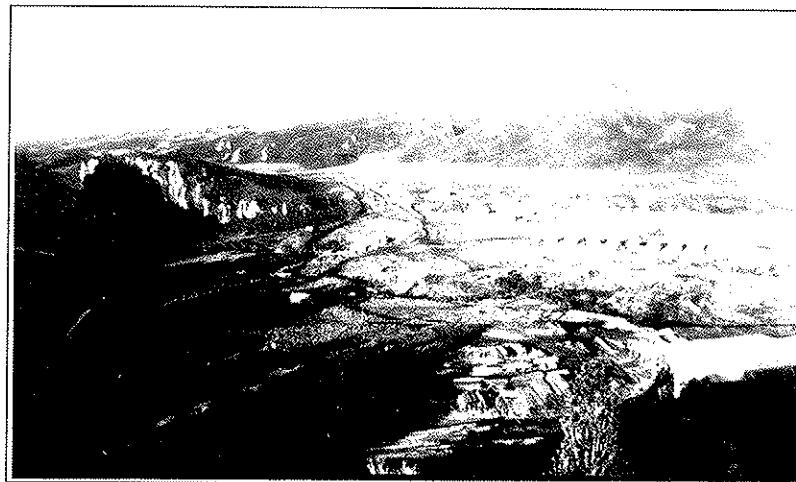
I have marked Lake Louise. The old road went quite close to it and it was shallow, swampy and probably covered about an acre or so and was inhabited by ducks. I was told it was named after the beautiful Lake Lousie in the Canadian Rockies which has a Chateau and attracts many tourists. So you see that even in the 1940s people had a sense of humour!

The map shows the sites of both Tutukau mills, but I am uncertain of the second half of the road going to the first mill site. I was unable to follow the road-line across the farms so had to guess that part. Similarly, the first part of the Tihoi Road and where it meets the Tirohanga-Mokai road is not certain but I was unable to follow it. I am certain of it where it meets and crosses Poihipi Road.

A 1950s map I saw at the Department of Lands and Survey confirmed my recollection that no other roads existed in the area at the time. At Marotiri a short track was shown heading for Whakamaru, but it soon petered out. So the dotted line indicates the only road at that time.

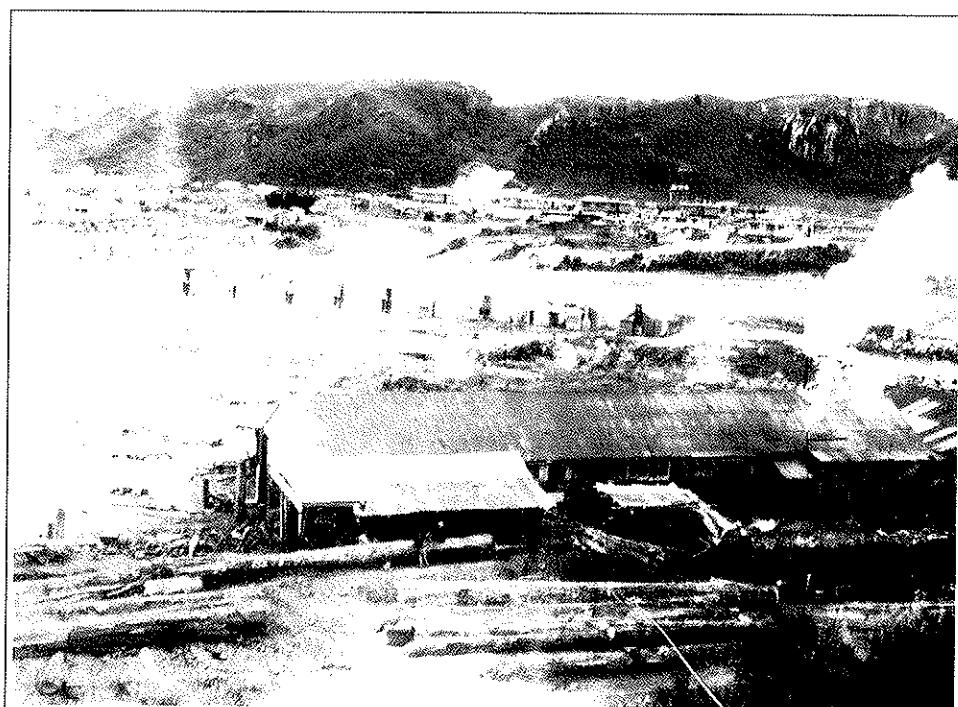


*State Highway 32 1962 style, north of Kakaho Road.*

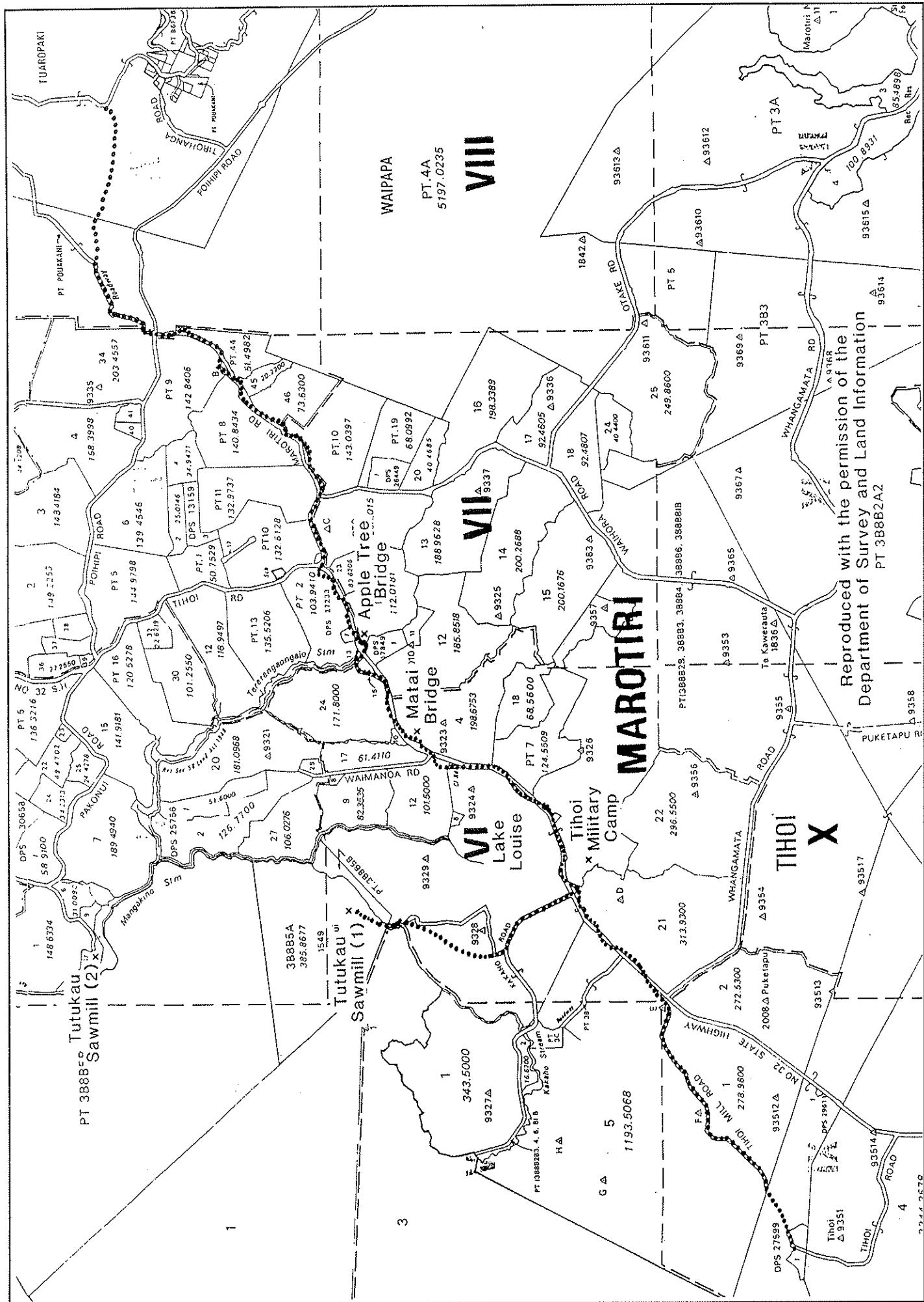


*Tihoi 1939-40*

*Buildings are: the mill, office, cookhouse, singlemen's huts, 4 houses and school hut in distance.*



*Tihoi Mill 1950*



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## SCHOOLING

### THE SCHOOL - Ngaire Albert



*Mrs Nola-May Beckett*

Education holds different memories for each generation. A poky little hut with no facilities or water, walking barefoot to school in the frost or through scrubland, and no playground. In later years desks with inkwells, playing in the bushland behind the school and travelling to school on a Landrover or on a timber truck.

School for those early pupils and the teachers must indeed have been very difficult. It was certainly difficult convincing teachers to stay in Tihoi for any length of

time because it was isolated and remote. Roads were make-shift tracks built specifically for timber trucks.

The history of Tihoi Primary School begins with Mrs Nola May Beckett who fought tirelessly for two years to establish a school. In May 1941 the door of the first official school was opened. It was the end of a long hard effort and offered fresh prospects. A future could be seen for Tihoi with a school. It would mean the stabilization of both the local work force and the economy.

Miss Joanne Hatton arrived in Tihoi as the first official teacher to the school. It was then sited in the present playground, alongside the Tennis Court. Later it was to be moved to the house of Mrs Beckett, then to the village hall and finally to its present situation.

A prefabricated classroom was introduced in 1951 and in 1955 a further classroom was added. Two new prefab classrooms arrived in the late 1960s and this is the Tihoi Primary School today.

A statement from the South Auckland Education Board in 1966 said the Tihoi School had been temporary since 1941. The board had acquired a site in the middle of the Waihaha Block. A school was to be built there as being more central for future children from the mill at Tihoi, the Waihaha mill and from the land settlement areas.

History has proved otherwise. The two mills have ceased operation and land settlement has come to a halt, at least temporarily. In the current economic plight facing education authorities the future of the school is uncertain.

The land, originally owned by the Burgess family is now part of the St. Paul's Venture School site.

### TIHOI SCHOOL TEACHERS

May 1941 - May 1942	Miss J.M. Hatton	Roll 10
May 1942 - Dec 1942	Mrs N.Beckett [Uncertified Teacher]	
1944 - 1945	School closed	
1946	Peter C. Horne	Roll 20
1947	Lake F. Sinclair	
1948 - 1949	Peter C. Williams	
School moved into new building - community hall.		
May 1950 - Aug 1950	Peter Ranby [Relief Teacher]	Roll 30

Aug 1950 - May 1951	Neil G. Thorby	Roll 32
May 1951 - Aug 1951	Peter Ranby [Relief Teacher]	Roll 43
Aug 1951 - May 1954	Phillip Amos and Mrs J.A. Amos	
May 1954 - 1957	Leo Wilson and Mrs Ruth Wilson	
1958 - 1960	Rodney Gayle and Mrs Adair Gayle	
1961 - 1964	Mrs W. Albert [Niki] [Relief Teacher]	
1965 - 1968	Denys and Mrs Dorothy Morris	
1967	Len Cannon and Mrs H. Cannon	
May 1968 - 1971	Mrs Hartley, Mrs W. Albert [Relief Teacher] Mr Davies [Taught in Club room]	
Nov 1971 - Dec 1971	Bob Brock and Mrs E. Brock, Mrs W. Albert.	
Feb 1972 - Dec 1972	Mr and Mrs Brockhurst [Relief Teachers]	
Feb 1973 - May 1973	Henry Phillips and Mrs C. Phillips	
May 1973 - Aug 1973	R. Fisk and Mrs E. Fisk	
Aug 1973 - Dec 1988	H.Inglis and Mrs Inglis [Relief Teachers]	
Feb 1989 - May 1989	Tim Muriwai and Mrs J.Muriwai Mrs W.Larsen [Teacher Aide]	
May 1989 - Dec 1990	Mrs K. Loomes, Mrs L. McCaughan, T. Brown [Relief Teacher] Mrs W.Larsen [Teacher Aide]	
1991	Mrs T.Rapana, Mrs W.Larsen [Teacher Aide]	
1992	Mrs L.McCaughan Mrs T.Rapana [Sole Charge]	
1993	Mrs W.Larsen [Teacher Aide]	
	Mrs K.Loomes Mr J. Sturgeon [Relief Teacher] Mrs W.Larsen [Teacher Aide]	
	Mr Kevin Mellon and Mrs K. Loomes Mrs W.Larsen [Teacher Aide]	

### TIHOI SCHOOL - Joanne Hatton

I was appointed to Tihoi School in 1941 and took up duties there after the May holidays. Mr Jim Mason was the person in charge of the local school and there was no school committee. For Mr Mason and his brother, the school was an asset as married workers with children would be easier to employ.

The so-called school building had burnt down prior to my arrival and the school was a single man's hut. There were six double desks but the building could only take five inside. The toilet was a hole in the ground with three sides and open to the skies. The toilet had no seat, just an open hole. There was no water at the school. A petrol drum with the top cut out stood by the eaves and any drips went in off the roof, which had no guttering. This was the school's water supply. The 'hut' stood amid the burnt remains of the previous building, just a surround of burnt and discarded timber.

Besides the desks there was an easel and blackboard and a box of white chalk, no paper, no books and on the first day no pupils. I had to go and find them all.

After I left the school, it was closed for a time and then Nola Beckett took on the job as an uncertified teacher for a while. I boarded with Bob and Nola Beckett for a least half of my time in Tihoi. I left the school in the winter term of 1942.

## LOOKING BACK - Peter Ranby

In 1950 I had been relieving sole teacher at Upper Atiamuri on the Lands and Survey Block for the first term. In the May holidays I got a three page telegram appointing me to Tihoi for the second term and telling me about how to get there, including catching a Hawkes Bay Motor Co. bus at Putaruru on the Saturday afternoon to get me to Taupo about 5.30pm. The road to Mangakino was not yet built.

The chairman of the School Committee was to meet me. I hung around in a freezing cold bus shed and after an hour, up pulled an International runabout and Bob Beckett and Charles Deane introduced themselves and said they had had truck trouble. I said I thought they had probably been in the pub so we shook hands again and went off to the Spa (Hotel) which was quite full even though it was after hours.

A few hours later we set off for Tihoi and many hours later ended up at Tihoi down the bank of the creek just by the bridge near the cook-house. Bob took me up to his place for a meal and then down to the single men's camp to introduce me and for more beer.

For the first month I stayed in Beckett's house while Bob's father was working on a hut for me up where the tennis court is. It was just assumed that school teachers were different and would rather be away on their own somewhere. No-one asked me. The old man went to a lot of trouble getting this hut in order, even to making a beautiful new mantlepiece of a long piece of 12 x 4 (inches) tanekaha. However, after a month I moved in with Fred Beckett who was driving a timber truck and had a larger than usual hut at the end of the line in the single men's camp.

The school was the old shop; very small, very dark and very cold. It had few windows and only an open fireplace for heat. No power of course, so on dull days we could hardly see inside. No water and no toilets. Kids had to go home to go to the toilet etc. There was no playground either and the shop was in a triangle formed by the road to the mill and the road to Waihaha.

The kids were lovely which was just as well for me. The room would have comfortably held about fifteen and the supposed limit for a sole charge school was thirty-two, but the roll then must have been close to forty. The families I remember with kids at school were Beckett, Deane, Hay, Rata, Whare, Taawhi, Matene, McLean, Barnes and the children of Lloyd Franklin who drove the town truck, as well as about a dozen kids who came in by truck from the hydro camp.

I ate in the cook-house run by the McLeans. I was a bit windy the first time, not knowing how the guys would receive me, but they were great. My mates among the single men were Frank Beckett, Jimmy Deane, Jack Parore, Tommy McLeod and old Ting Ingle. Frank was

driving a timber truck, Jimmy was yard boss, Jack worked on the breaking-down, Tommy in the bush and I remember Ting pulling a horse-drawn grader behind his truck as well as driving the ambulance.

Our main amusements were drinking, cards, rugby and hunting - in that order. A big group of single men would be waiting for the town truck on a Friday night, especially on a long weekend. As soon as the beer that we had

ordered was unloaded, we would head off to the huts or listen for the noise from the married houses and off to a party. These often went on until Sunday with few breaks for meals. Rugby was played in Taupo the first year I was there, on a sawdust paddock. Then off to the Spa for a swim in the hot pool and more beer.

I saw my first snow close up at Tihoi and ate my first pigeon there. Tom McLeod, Jimmy Deane and I had heard singing at the home of one of the married couples and turned up there with our dozens. There was

a kerosene tin of pigeons on the fire in the front room. I was asked if I would like some pigeon. I said I would and expected a few slices but I was taken to the kitchen table and there was a whole pigeon. I watched the kids eating theirs and tried to do the same and ended up with fat everywhere. What a waste of pigeon.

I was only in my second year of teaching so I was not highly enough graded to be appointed full time. However the next winter I was back again relieving.

This time there was a brand new one room prefab school. It even had toilets and a flattened pumice area for a playground. It also had forty-five kids and only me to teach them. No-one could do a good job but we struggled on.

One incident I am not proud of. I had persuaded the mothers to make some rompers for the girls for Phys Ed. I think the committee made them. We did not know that Des Simons, the Phys Ed Instructor was coming but the kids saw his little van bumping like a cork in the sea over the main road and ran to get changed without being told. It was about 11.45 am, too late to start, so we put it off until after lunch. I took him to the cook-house for lunch and after, back to my hut. I offered him a beer from under the bed and he accepted.

At about 2.15pm when we wandered back to school we were met by Penny Beckett and Merlene Hay. Merlene in Std 4 was the oldest girl and said 'We've heard the primers' reading and cleaned the toilets and we're going home'. Quite right too.

So I had my two winters there. No summer which would have been good.

Phil Amos who I knew at Teachers College was appointed to Tihoi School after me. I tried to do some university work at Tihoi but it was hopeless for a single man. The universities were not geared for it and at Tihoi in the single men's camp you were right in or right out and I preferred in.



New School in winter 1951

## TIHOI 1961 - 1964 - Dorothy Morris

### AROHANUI

"Where is Tihoi Denys?" "It's on the Western shores of Lake Taupo - should be lovely, let's apply". So we did - successfully, at the end of 1960 for Tihoi School - deciding to leave sunny Akaroa for the great adventure ... teaching together in our own school. Never mind that we had two toddlers and a young baby.

Leaving baby Fiona in Christchurch with my mum, we set out the following January in our old jalopy with Nigel and Rachel - the car packed high with blankets and our furniture consigned to N.Z. Railways - we didn't see it for six weeks. What a trip! On and on we drove up through the North Island and coming through Mokai in the night, wild horses galloped alongside. We thought it surely is the end of the world. On again, were we lost?

"There's a man flagging us down", "I'm Chris Burgess".  
TIHOI !!!

Home, among the huge piles of sawdust. Beds? Molly Burgess of course. Food? Corrie and Mrs Pratt. Nice little mill house with plenty of kids around and Thelma Nankaville next door. We were very comfy.

We were young keen teachers and our two kids came to school with us. Juliet was born in the car on the way to Mangakino a few months later and then mother arrived bringing Fiona. "Who borned Fiona"? asked someone. The following year we had Vivien.

Denys was doing a mighty job and the Tihoi children were great! Albert, Bennett, Brown, Baker, Cairns, Deane, Duff, Dewes, George, Hepi, Harris, Hay, Henare, Hicks, Manuel, Morris, Nankaville, Pratt, Rawhiti, Rivers, Speers, Wilson, - I can still recite the roll after 30 years, but forget some.

We just loved it though the classes were large and no help or amenities in those days. The school was the two pre-fabs in a paddock of long grass with a strip of concrete along the front and the toilets under the pine trees. A lean-to staffroom was constructed for us by the Mums with a cardboard wall behind where my babies and Niki's twins slept. No phone, no fresh milk, no electricity and no school committee.

In time all these problems were corrected but when we arrived, life at Tihoi was basic. Our two joys were the potbellied stoves which kept us all warm in the bitter frosty winters, and the happy bunch of kids in our care. Village life was very close, the big girls came and helped me after school and the little kids swarmed in to play. Denys took shoppers to Mangakino. He was always busy organizing dental trips, evening classes, school bus driving, improvements - you name it. He spent far more time

at school than at home and one night at 1am I plodded down the bush track to find him painting the classroom ceiling.

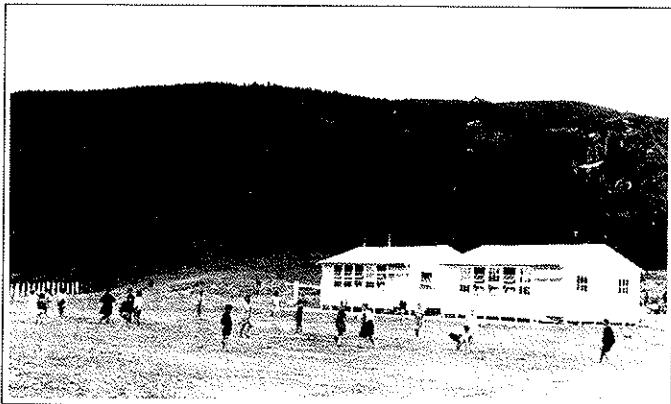
Denys entrusted the class to his senior boys when he had to leave the school on any business ... Harry Harris and later Tau Brown would just take over and I didn't even have to go and check! They were all amazing boys. Monday mornings were first aid time when we dressed the wounds of the wild weekends. Knives used for pig hunting inflicted some awesome cuts!! Denys cut the boys hair, went home visiting and fought tooth and nail to get all his Form 2 away to secondary school.

The years passed happily, my Mum came for a long holiday and fitted into Tihoi life well - though it was quite a culture shock from Christchurch. Mother was a sort of unpaid Teacher Aide. Molly and Chris at the Tihoi Trading Post were the pivot round which the life of the community flowed ... horses tied up, cowboys in big hats and spurs, ladies in sunhats trailing toddlers to the 2pm store opening. The Inspectors always called the Tihoi School one big happy family - even on Sundays Mrs Burgess senior picked up the kids in her huge old car for a Sunday School that was home away from home.

The swinging sixties were great. We were sad to leave. The wonderful memories have been in our hearts ever since - wild Waihaha, dancing at the Club, bush walks, picture night and above all the kindness and friendship of Tihoi. The 99% excellence of behaviour in our pupils. One boy lost that 1% when he 'borrowed' Gordon Rutherford's truck to get to evening class and afterwards took it for a joy-ride to Mangakino.

Thanks for the memories, kept alive here in Kaikohe by Nana Albert and Denys having a weekly chat. She lives just down the road.

And yes, we're still teaching!



Tihoi School

### REMEMBERING TIHOI 1966 - 1968 - Len Cannon

The day, in fact the whole weekend was wet and cold. With the help of a friend's truck, here we were shifting from Wanganui to Tihoi - knew where Tihoi was as I found it on a map.

We approached Tihoi from the Kuratau end not knowing about the pumice roads or the 'Banana' bridge south of Waihaha. Luckily, because the bridge was supported on oil drums it was only to be looked at and not used. We drove into Tihoi, found the house and met Chris Burgess - probably the best known identity in the district who was lying on the floor in front of a blazing fire, reading a comic.

And so started two and a half years in the district which was isolated, radio reception dreadful, no T.V., and hard-

ly any phones - one at the mill, shop, Charlie Dean's house and the school. They were crank handle phones, but they and Chris Burgess' landrover and trailer to Hamilton once a week, kept us in touch with the outside world. Our school was two prefabs, an outside staff-room and an outside toilet for the kids. With plenty of wood around, all kinds of nooks and crannies could be made in these rooms - partitions, shelves and little corners. The school had very little, though. I remember the School Committee having only five pounds to spare, but with good friends in Des and Judy Carter at the Marotiri School lending us crayons, paper, paint and books etc we survived.

What of the 'outside of school'? There was the Club and the rugby. What magnificent hangis and fun after the home games. What was even more magnificent was that Tihoi usually always won.

At the beginning of each year there was a 'Welcome In' to new settlers held at the Whakamaru Hall.

Where did we get our food? The Tihoi Trading Post. The meat and bread came from Putaruru by timber truck. Butter was 2/- a pound and a packet of pipe tobacco 4/5d. The school was served from the South Auckland Education Board situated in Hamilton and the school bus was monitored by the Department of Education Garage at Te Awamutu. Whakamaru Garage, run by John Shirley maintained the bus every 400 miles. On those trips children were taken to the Dental Clinic at Mangakino Primary School. A District Nurse, Carol Dowman visited the school once a week and any Clinic referrals were taken to Rotorua. The school pre-fabs were warm in the winter with the potbellied stoves, but the staff-room was like the inside of a deep freeze. I wrote to the Education Board for heating and the reply was that there was no evidence of need. I took the staff-room temperature every morning for two weeks and sent the reading to the Board. Three days later the school received two, two-bar electric heaters!

Winter, summer, wet, cold, regardless of temperature or time of year, life was positive and warm in Tihoi. A time in my teaching I remember and cherish. The most meaningful memories for me are remembering the fun it was to be part of Tihoi. The togetherness of people, whether it was shepherds, manager, mill worker, bushman or store-keeper, we all met, shared laughter and cried together.

Family names spring out of photographs: - Cairns, Albert, Brown, Hepi, Speers, Hay, Merrin, Dodds, Nixon, Duff and Johnson. On the wider scene Chris and Molly Burgess, Warwick and Hilton Burgess, Harold Nairn, Harry Lewell, Jock McCabe, John Shirley, Polly Hepi, Doug and Cis Hay, Gordon Rutherford.



Snow in Tihoi

I remember;

- when the bush caught fire at the back of the school and the men from the mill fought the fire until knock off time at 4 o'clock.
- when the new school was put up and Chris Burgess wanted to buy one room of the old school to store vegetables. The Health Department wouldn't allow it. The room was healthy enough for children, but not for spuds and carrots.
- When the highway was finally ready for sealing and a large culvert was put in down towards Mathews, usable on the Saturday morning, washed away by the afternoon.
- the school trip to New Plymouth. We had our photos on the front page of the Taranaki Herald and the publisher sent a copy for each of us, to the railcar.
- the girls on a trip to Wellington had never used penny-in-the-slot toilets before.

- the rugby on the Tihoi field where the dip in the corner was worth six points for Tihoi. We knew the dip was there and we didn't fall over.

Tihoi is unique. It is the kind of place that people hear about and wish they had the opportunity to live in or visit. I was lucky, I was there. Thankyou Tihoi.

#### YES WE REMEMBER - Robert & Elizabeth Brock

Morrinsville - Term 1 1968.

'Hey!! We've got Tihoi School'.

'We'd better go and have a look at the place'.

The following Saturday - miles after falling off the tarseal - 'Are your sure we're on the right road'?

'Yes look! Tihoi - no swimming in the potholes. We have to be in the right place'.

At the end of the road we were relieved to find an attractive looking school and a comfortable house. Our first contact was Chris Burgess who showed us around and gave us information about Tihoi. He must have been a good salesman - we accepted the job.

Although we had a short stay of two years we collected many memories.

We remember;

- the frosts of our first days in Tihoi.
- the looks on the faces of School Committee members when they received the first power bill after the school was heated electrically.
- the children balanced on the edge of the big rock above the school.
- the streams through the louvres in the boys' "loo" as they had a competition to see who could shoot the highest or straightest.
- the high number of advisors etc who called in when they wanted to disappear from their offices for the day.
- never quite getting the two extra children needed to get a third teacher.
- the help from Niki Albert who saved us "putting our foot in it" on more than one occasion.
- What do we remember about the district?
- mill breakups.
- after football hangis at the Club.
- football practices in the frost.
- Frank singing loudly on his way home from the Club.
- helping Chris and Molly at the Trading Post.
- listening to a stranger make derogatory remarks in Maori about Chris and watching with glee as he greeted someone else in Maori moments later.
- giving Chris lists of things to buy on his trips to Hamilton and never ceasing to be amazed that he came back with exactly what was wanted.
- the potholes.
- green bits in the water as the weather grew warmer.
- the fact that it didn't snow decently while we were there.
- the friendship and encouragement of Chris and Molly.
- the friendship and acceptance of the people of Tihoi.

Yes, we remember. Thank you Tihoi.

## THE FIRST SCHOOL TRIP

- Boydie Rata

When Phil Amos was teacher a highlight for senior pupils was a visit to Auckland staying at the Tui Glen Motel and visiting the 1ZB Radio Station. Some of the children had never journeyed much further than Putaruru before. They travelled on the back of a mill truck driven by Fred Beckett, canopy over them.



*Phil Amos takes children to 1ZB. Sam Webster, Peter (Digger) Tawhi, Massey Rata, Warwick Burgess, 'Tiger' Deane, Phillip Ham, Boydie Rata, Colin Tawhi, Barbie Hepi, Christine Otimi, Ngaire Beckett, Myrtle Deane, Kathryn Rata, Greta Webster, Joyce Deane, Maude Whiu, Merlene Hay and Mere Brown in front.*

## THE MURIWAI EXPERIENCE

- Tim & Jill Muriwai

Tena Koutou  
Nga iwi e tau nei  
Nga kaiako  
Nga matua  
Nga tamariki katoa  
Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou, Tena Koutou Katoa.

Jill and I travelled from Kaikohe on Thursday 2nd August 1973 to view the school we had just been provisionally appointed to. We broke our trip in Auckland and continued our journey the next day, not knowing where or what we were heading to. As we drove through the village that afternoon we were greeted by what appeared to be looks of suspicion from the local village folk. On arrival at the gate we were at first confronted by a sturdy brick building which could only have been 'the school house' - we thought.

Mr and Mrs Henry Inglis made us very welcome, guided us around the school, met with the children and visited the 'real' schoolhouse. The most lasting memories we hold from that initial visit to Tihoi was the thickness of the ice along the road fence and the deep-throated monotone of Douglas Tuheke, then in Form 2. We left Tihoi at approximately 3pm with mixed feelings. We had until the following Monday to decide on the confirmation of our appointment. Discussion between us over the next seven hours of travel confirmed that the Muriwai's and Tihoi had something to offer each other - a decision we were not to regret. We arrived at Tihoi in our official capacity at approximately 2 pm on Sunday 26th August, with Kim aged 3 and Michelle aged 2. We were a full day later than we had expected to be, having 'done a clutch plate' in Whangarei on the Friday night enroute. The furniture truck, as a result of our mishap, was a full day ahead of us and was therefore unable to gain access to the house on arrival. I immediately made enquiries at the Club for a key to the house but no one I spoke to was able to assist. The whole Clubroom was packed and lively. It had to be a 'private function' I thought - and it was Sunday. I did eventually manage to prize open a window and gain entry to the house.



Tihoi School 1976

## WELCOME TO TIHOI

Over the ensuing 15 years we accumulated many lasting friendships and memories of Tihoi. It is impossible to recall them all but some we would like to share at the time of writing are as follows:

- Having to justify our request for a staff toilet facility with the Education Board in 1973 and winning the debate a year later.
- Those Gala Days - most of which continued into the later hours of the day.
- The school 'working bees' which inevitably became real social occasions afterwards.
- The Pet and Flower Show Days which were always successful and well supported.
- The auctioning of the children's baking in the earlier years will always be remembered.
- The Senior Camps with Marotiri School at Whakaipo Bay and Titiraupenga were enjoyable to say the least.
- Establishing the school pool which we will always refer to as the Sinton pool, in recognition of their effort toward the project.
- The School Committee end of year B.B.Q's and sitting around the fire into the early hours.
- The Ricoh Evening held at Waihaha to raise funds for the purchase of a photocopier.

- The trip to Auckland by the whole school and 12 enthusiastic parents.
- The re-model of the school and school house certainly improved work and home life.
- The contributions of Anna Crockett and members of her family toward addressing the Maori Cultural aspects of the school.
- Fund-raising for Telethon always brought the community together.
- Remember the 'Crazy Day' at school which was the 'brain-child' of Ann Robertson.
- The Pinelands Inter-school Sports fixtures in which Ti-hoi, always competed successfully.
- The heavy snowfall of 1975.
- Our very first enrollment to the school - Jason Albert - September 1973.

Kei te manaaki o te Atua kia Koutou.



*The 'Crazy Day' at Tihi School with Glen Larsen*

#### THE SCHOOL POOL - Tim Muriwai

After investigating several options regarding pool type, sizes, construction and possible sites, it was decided to invest in a kitset from Para Rubber in Tokoroa at a cost of \$1,190.

A fund-raising effort was apparent and with total community support, devious methods were put into place. I recall Tony Woodhead's balaclava being raffled on numerous occasions at rugby functions, always at the latter part of the evening when small change was plentiful. Tony kept winning his 'clava back and the best part of '\$0 was raised.

During an army exercise which was operated from the Tihi Club, all personnel were asked to make a donation toward the project. This in itself realized \$150 approximately. The donation jar on the Club bar proved invaluable. A successful Gala Day assured everyone of the reality of the project.

The pool kitset was purchased and construction took place during Christmas holidays of 1976. The Sinton and Muriwai families and Jock McCabe were supported by Beau Albert, Murray Davies and Herbie Blank. It was a frustrating yet enjoyable experience, cementing the relationship between those families who were involved.

The building of the fence was more of a picnic affair with more people able to be involved because the nature of the work was more in keeping with the knowledge of everyone concerned. The concrete surround was completed at the end of the first period of swimming in 1977.

In 1984 a garden shed was funded by the Education Board and Warwick Kerr offered his expertise to erect it.

#### THE CROCKETT FAMILY - Noeleen Belvie

The Crockett family is now in its third generation at Tihi School the family having moved to the district in the late 1940s.

After schooling and some mill work, Kerry worked elsewhere but returned to Waihaha Sawmill with his wife Anna and the second generation of Crocketts started at the school in 1967. Four of the family registered that year were Noeleen, Kerry, Rangi and Lavinia (Lovey) who travelled to school with the Hunter children and Cecily Martin. The other brothers and sisters who followed were Valerie, Lola, Ngaire, Mary, Jason, Janey-Ann and Darleen. All except Noeleen were taught by Tim and Jill Muriwai.

Duties were apportioned to pupils with tasks such as sweeping the floor, emptying the rubbish bins and cleaning the blackboard. Talk about child labour - it seems pretty ironic that years later a couple of us would end up as school cleaners.

Sporting-wise Tihi School had one of the most domineering Rugby and Netball teams in the surrounding district. The area was Whakamaru, Mangakino, Mokai, Tirohanga and Atiamuri. Tihi won many cups, trophies and titles. A double wedding was held in October 1978 at the School when Noeleen married Bert Belvie and Rangi married Ron Packer, all from Waihaha Mill. The Reverend Hemi Potatau officiated while guests sat on small chairs in a decorated classroom, followed by a reception at St. Paul's. In May 1980 the third generation started at the school and currently attending are Seymour, Peter, Jackson, Damian, Mason, Mark, Helena, Roger and Casey. As grandfather Kerry drove the first of the batch to school in the green Holden 'School Bus' did he recall those days when he did not reach the classroom but spent his time chasing wild Brumbies with Ivan Green?.

#### CHILDHOOD REFLECTIONS OF SCHOOL

1940s - 1950s

Merlene Hibbs (nee Hay)

First day at school. Accompanying brother Colin to spend time with Mrs Nola Beckett at her home learning the three 'R's.

Our first classroom was an old workman's hut. The Bakers came out of the bush, the Turei' from the top of the hill and the Rata family from the bottom. Tennis balls were dyed red to identify them as school property. The old hut was poky, dark, dingy and smoky.

An old house was our next classroom, a few metres away from the old hut. Blackboards were around the wall, on which we were apportioned an area individually named. The next shift to the old hall was more central and there was more room to move about. There were free apples, milk, stationary, and free taxi rides to the Dental Nurse in Taupo - thanks to the Tuwharetoa Trust. Learning Maori action songs was a definite highlight. Our tiny, self-conscious contingent performed and marched in Taupo.

A real school. Initially this was one building and the wharepaku. The fence was gradually built with a stile for pupil access. I remember a succession of teachers - Mr Ranby teaching us Maori myths and legends, Mr Thorby who didn't stay long and Mr Amos who took the school pupils to the big city of Auckland - a first for many.

I remember running marathons to the old football field, a new school radio and listening to selected programmes .. cousin Paddy Franklin dipping my plaits in his inkwell,

playing football with the boys and Boydie Rata the maths whizz. There were nature study field trips on location towards Pureora. We dug up young native trees and transplanted them to the rear of the school.

I was the first pupil at Tihi School to sit a Tuwharetoa Scholarship. My attainment was the result of Mr Amos' guidance. Going to High School I was transported in the old 'stork' maternity taxi chauffeured by Tom Barber, then by a New Zealand Railways bus to Auckland. Returning home for holidays Chris Burgess often came to the rescue on his trips to Putaruru. Sometimes it was the Mangakino Policeman Allan Scott or Dad's friends Ted Aylward and Rick Carson.

Thence it was to the working years through New Zealand and abroad. Getting homesick and returning to the warmth of the family, the bush and wide open spaces.



*Tennis match at Tihi 1950*

I remember;

- living in the littlest house on the hill.
- Mum (Cis Hay) boiling the copper on the river bank and rinsing clothing in the creek.
- Molly and Grandpa Burgess planting pine trees.
- Mum running up to the mill after a wireless broadcast the end of World War II and conveying the good news.
- fun times on bush treks with Dad, Bob Beckett and Penny.
- Mom Turei teaching Colin to box but getting his own nose bloodied.
- Tumbling through bracken, sliding down banks, climbing and falling out of trees.
- Getting spanked with a switch of ti-tree.
- Community fundraising and sports days.
- Picnics at the foot of Tutakamoana and numerous excursions to its summit. Wonderment at the many tomos.
- Mum the tennis and hockey whizz.
- Uncle Cliff (Hay) building new homes. Uncle Lloyd (Franklin) with his timber truck and the long haul to Putaruru. Mum and her peers giving their monthly shopping lists to drop off at Barr-Brown's for collection on the way home. Chris Burgess eventually taking over the delivery services of stores around the houses.
- Advancing with the times from candles to Coleman and Tilley Lamps to electric lights. The coming of the telephone and the party line. Old wood-burning stoves with rack overhead on which to air clothing and Mum's bread dough. A wall safe jutting to the outside of the house and a sunken ceramic pipe in a shaded corner serving as a refrigerator.

- Dad (Doug) driving the Chev off the mill bridge into the creek. What a mess! Crafty restoration and hey presto the 'Flying Flipper' which later became the 'Flying Saucer' - great summer days.

- After the building of the Working Men's Club a marked decline in community sporting activities except for football, snooker and darts. The tennis court soon fell into disrepair.
- Concerts at the Tihi Army Camp with transport provided by the Army. Open-air theatres. The Army band performing at the Tihi Mill. Pre-farm areas swarming with khaki-clad soldiers.
- Attempting to print the first Tihi School Newspaper 'The Tihi Outpost'.
- Interviewing Grandpa Burgess and documenting early history of the area.
- Pleasure in recent years seeing the village buildings renovated and carefully maintained by St. Paul's Collegiate. The joy of seeing Molly again.

Ka kite koutou katoa a tera kapahaka.

## REMEMBERING THE GOOD OLD SCHOOL DAYS

LATE 1960s - Harriet Cairns

On school days Harriet Cairns would be up early, hurry through her chores and be driven by her mother to the Hingarae Block to catch the school bus. She writes:- The bus drivers were our teachers until the local people took on the job and the bus was also used for Mangakino dental appointments and sports trips. These days the bus service is under contract to a private company although our local driver Towai Cairns runs the children to and from school. Another difference is that parents transport their children to appointments.

When the Lands and Survey Department and the mill settlements were in full swing we had sufficient pupils for our own netball and rugby teams. There was a shield at the school and we were placed in different 'houses' - Rotoiti, Wanaka and Taupo, the shield being given annually to the house with the most points.

I can remember the cross country races where we had to run over fences, across the creek, through paddocks, up hills and down. Girls competed against the boys and despite being handicapped our boys always won, no matter how we tried. At play-times girls and boys played together just as they do today. There were marbles, double-dutch, slams, four square, bullrush, rugby, soccer, table tennis, hop-scotch and piggy-in-the-middle.



*Moving in the new school*

There were two prefabs with potbelly stoves, a staffroom and a dolls house. It was quite an occasion for the pupils when new classrooms arrived. No more lighting of fires to warm up the rooms. When the buildings were on site it was our job to sort out the gardens and we planted shrubs and some trees around the grounds and they are there today.

Mr Cannon arranged trips for the senior pupils to places such as Wellington, Napier and New Plymouth so that the children could learn about different environments

and industries. Finance for these trips came from parents and the School Committee.

Changes have been made with the staffroom enlarged, a swimming pool installed and the ground extended. Nowadays, because of the small school roll some sports are combined with Marotiri, Tirohanga and Mokai. In 1986 my daughter Hazel was enrolled and there were two teachers, but this year 1991 the numbers have slipped back and now it is a sole charge school. This tiny school holds memories for all its past pupils.

### REDEX VARIETY BASH AT TIHOI 1991

**David Larsen (Form 2 Pupil 1991)**

In the third term of 1989 Tihoi School was kindly invited to the Redex Variety Bash. At that time most of the children at school did not know what the Redex Bash was until Mrs Rapana, our teacher, filled us in on the details. We then all couldn't wait until April 17th 1991.

In preparation for the Bash visit we made fish hats and large stuffed fish. For our fish hats we were sent stickers and some Stop, Drop and Roll stickers. The day before we were told not to bring our lunch as the 'Fish Pot Cafe' was providing fish'n chips for lunch and it was to be their shout!

The day the Bash hit Tihoi we arrived at St. Paul's Venture School grounds at 10.30am. We were there about ten minutes when a man asked us, 'Where did the Variety Bash start'? I answered, 'Ellerslie Racecourse'. To my

surprise he handed me a six pack of Coke cooler bag for my correct answer.

The first car came in at about 11.30am. It was the McDonald car. We all rushed to it for good luck. The driver began handing out stickers and other little bits and pieces, to our amazement all the other cars had their own goods to give away FREE. The Ashton Scholastic Book Club, who supplied each month's book orders to our School were a part of the Variety Team. Lucky, the Book Club's mascot was there also. Lucky was a full sized black and white cat - all furry. Their entry was a converted Fire Engine and their theme was Fire Safety. They had all the children singing the Fire Safety song, Stop, Drop and Roll along with Lucky the mascot.

My family was up in Auckland during mid-term break so we visited 'The Fish Pot Cafe' and there were our fish decorating their restaurant - it was neat to see.



*School children with P Leishman*



# CHRONOLOGY OF TIHOI PRIMARY SCHOOL 1962-1991

1962 / Feb - First Log Book commenced by D.H. & D.E. Morris. No private nor public transport available hence participation in sports fixtures difficult as are dental visits. Senior pupils put their energies into improving the swimming hole, increasing its size and depth. Builder and plumber to install a sink in staffroom and a zip. Staffroom painted, curtain hung, first cup of tea served to Mr J. Smith, organising teacher. Builder and plumber busy as school installing a stainless steel sink and bench plus installing a new zip water heater. Staffroom painted, curtains hung, total transformation for staffroom. Senior boys concreting beneath a new basin installed for pupils use for hand washing. Out door table tennis table erected for pupils, seniors play regularly. 200 anemone and ranunculi bulbs together with tulips, crocus, hyacinths and freesia. Children in teams Wana-ka, Rotoiti and Taupo Garden competition between teams.

May - First sports fixture friendly football match with Marotiri. Aug - Spring garden planted in February in bloom. Lawn mower out of commission children hand cutting lawns. Sept - 4 boys travelled to Auckland with Marotiri team to participate in Country Boys Football. Boys billeted visited museum. Free Chest X-ray Unit visited Tihoi.

Dec - Christmas Party. Concert 'Rumpelstiltskin' the puppet play. Theatre was build and painted by Taurangi. 1963 / Feb - Five children from Waihaha Block have come to school from Correspondence school. Tony, Maree & Lynette Merrin, Janice & Allen Kivell. Fences painted, and new stile put up. Pupils dismantled and rebuilt old wood shed.

April - Senior pupils and Headmaster attended performance of 'Peter & the Wolf' given by N.Z. Ballet in Putaruru.

School Committee Elected: Chairman - Mr C.T.E. Burgess  
Secretary - Mr G. Rutherford  
- Mr B. Merrin  
- Mrs T. Merrin  
- Mr S. Te Tomo

June - Staff of Waihaha Mill re-erected the flag pole with school committee.

1964 / June - Discussions held future of school & possibility of school being moved to Waihaha Block in about 4 years. Small school bus now running daily between Tihoi and Waihaha Mill.

1965 / Feb - Religious instruction commenced. First school committee meeting held at Mr Rutherford's residence.

May - School went to Whakamaru to visit Governor General. Senior class also visited Whakamaru Dam.

7th May - Governor General's holiday. Aug - Nine children visited Wellington on Social Studies trip. Wayne Baker, Kevin Baker, Maxine Johnson, Tony Walker, Lindsay Walker, Leo Speers, John Albert, David Ferguson & Rachel Cairns.

Nov - Gala Day (first for several years) Raised 73 pounds.

1966 / Feb - First Dental check. Mar - Fire in bush at back of school. 6 acres of bush burnt before fire bought under control.

Senior children visited Whakamaru Hall to hear a talk by Sir Edmund and Lady Hillary.

June - Meeting held to discuss 'loop road' condition for bus to travel. Herald reporter visited school to examine road and report on the situation.

34 bus children being bought to school by Landrover and private cars due to road problems.

Aug - Road repaired.

Nov - Open Day held at school for parents.

1967 / Sept - New buildings installed during school holidays.

1968 / Aug - New trees and shrubs arrived and planted. Five trees along school drive and 17 shrubs in gardens in front of classrooms.

Oct - Flag pole along with plaque shifted from original site.

Nov - Electric sewing machine new equipment received.

1969 - Mr & Mrs Brock and Mrs Albert staff.

Mar - Bus run now to include Hingarae Road to Alberts. Daily run 50 miles. April - Children taken to Whakamaru to meet Governor General Sir Arthur Porritt.

School Committee elections:

Chairman - Mr G. Rutherford  
Secretary - Mrs W. Albert  
- Mr J. Newton  
- Mrs F. Warren  
- Mrs J. Welsh

Aug - Three teams took part in Winter Tournament at Mangakino.

Sept - Water supply pipes to school repaired in Burgess plantation and across road.

Oct - Children received TB tests.

Dec - Children of senior room participated in tabloid sports at Whakamaru.

1970 / Aug - Tihoi school won zone sports cup.

Sept - Measles vaccinations.

1971 / Feb - Swimming at Marotiri.

Mar - Visit of Tokelauan ladies who spoke to children.

July - Joined local schools sports days. Hangi and sports for Whakamaru's visit, over 200 fed.

1971 / Nov - Final arrangements made for netball court.

Mr Wheto full time bus driver.

1972 / Feb - School banking set up. Seniors visited Mokai for educational sports day. Completion of concrete area in front of school.

Mar - Mokai school visited school and Tihoi Mill.

June - New 25 seater bus arrived. Seniors visited Marotiri and Whakamaru school for sport fixtures. Juniors from Mangakino Cultural group visited Tihoi.

Aug - Movie projector arrived.

1973 / April - School Committee elections:

Chairperson - Mrs W. Albert

Secretary - Mr J. McCabe

Mr J.G.K. Rutherford / Mrs S. Sinton / Mr A. Harmer.

May - School house changed, no garage or electric hot water.

Sept - Mr & Mrs Muriwai began third term. School house undergoing renovations when they arrived - Cairns Netball Cup presented to school by Mrs Cairns and Mrs Speers.

1974 - Mrs Hepi Teacher Aide.

Feb - Hilltop Primary visit - educational tour of Tihoi district.

Mar - Concrete paid for new netball/tennis courts.

April - School painted.

Oct - Radio system installed.

Nov - Staff toilet built.

Dec - Concept of Rural Teachers Group discussed by T. Muriwai(Tihoi) G.Mickall (Marotiri). (Resulting in formation of Pinelands Rural Schools group following years).

1975 / Feb - Roll of 40 pupils expected.

Oct - Front gardens replaced by scoria beds. 8 shrubs planted.

Dec - Continuous bottle drive which took place throughout the year had its first bottles dispatched. Proceeds raised towards swimming pool.

1976 / Feb - Roll opened at 46.

Mar - Gala day held raised \$450, funds towards swimming pool. Closure of Western Bays Timber Company Mill, loss of 14 pupils.

Apr - Western Bays Timber Company Mill auction held sale of equipment.

May - Mill houses demolished or removed.

June - Heavy snowfall.

Sept - Trip to Wairakei Power Station, Huka Falls, Cherry Island.

Nov - Combined Marotiri/Tihoi Camp YMCA Pureora.

Dec - Pool site cleared.

1977 / Feb - First swim in pool. Fence still to be constructed.

Mar - Gala Day raised \$266. Queen's visit to Taupo.

July - Bore sunk to improve water supply.

Aug - Trip to Rotorua.

Dec - Senior class combined with Marotiri Trip to Titiraupenga.

1978 / Feb - Mrs Atkins - Reliever.

Mrs Denton - Teachers Aide.

re established Saturday netball.

March - Gala raised \$200. Purchase of new typewriter.

Aug - Driveway fence replaced to improve school boundary. School garden project begins. Fence erected by children.

Oct - Past pupils double wedding. Mr & Mrs Belvie & Mr & Mrs Packer.

Dec - Combined S4/F2 camp Marotiri/Tihoi - Whakaipo Bay. Juniors visited Huka Village, joined seniors for BBQ lunch.

1979 / Feb - Tihoi Venture School Established (St. Paul's Collegiate Hamilton).

Mar - Gala raised \$240. Children took part in swimming sports. David Moorcroft visits school conveying his personal accounts of Olympic games.

June - Waitomo Caves - Marae Visit Te Kuiti. Barbecue Tables and school sign.

July - Spinning & Weaving classes held each Thursday night.

Aug - Winter sports tournament held Mangakino - rugby/netball. Speech Competitions at Whakamaru. First ever Pet Day - Dog obedience display by Steve (St. Paul's). Gymnastics tournament Marotiri.

1980 / Feb - S2 - F2 pupils plus 4 parents hike up Titiraupenga.

Mar - Swimming sports Mangakino.

April - Builders arrive for building repairs to school and school house. Softball interschool tournament Atiamuri.

May - Farewell for Mrs Denton.

July - Trip to Buried Village, Rotorua.

Aug - Winter sports field day held at Mangakino.  
 Oct - Cross Country.  
 Nov - Pet Day.  
 Dec - Under Mike Shaw's guidance (S2 - F2) children ventured to summit of Mt. Pureora.  
 1981 / Feb - School picnic held 1st Saturday of term at Kinloch. Lakeland Mobile Kindergarten first visit to Tihoi. 12 children attended. Weekly visits planned. Swimming sports held at Mangakino.  
 Mar - Gala - chainsaw competitions held.  
 July - F2 children join Marotiri From 1 & 2 for weeks trip to Wellington.  
 Sept - Craft display held in Mangakino. Much interest shown in children's work.  
 Nov - Flower Show & Pet Day. Children's cakes auctioned \$120 raised.  
 1982 / Feb - Roll at 33.  
 Mar - Annual Gala raised \$370 towards school's trip to Auckland. Hingarae Settlers arrived Paget, Loomes, Bowron families.  
 Apr - Softball Tournament Atiamuri. Seniors won finals again Juniors runners up.  
 July - Auckland visit, 34 children and 12 adults. Stayed at Tui Glen Motor Camp, Henderson.  
 Oct - Annual Cross Country held Tihoi 1st time. Disco raised funds for photocopier. School trip down to Waihaha Mill. Materials arrived for school house renovations.  
 1983 / Feb - Mrs Joan Smith - Teachers Aide.  
 April - Arrival of Kotuku Settlers - Robertsons, McCauleys, Charmans and Larsen families.  
 Formations of School Council - Chairperson Mrs Sinton; Secretary Mr G. Loomes; Committee: A. Crockett, W. Kerr, J. Bowron, T. Muriwai, N. Belvie, J. McCauley, J. Floyd new council members L. Charman filled J. Floyds position latterly.  
 Aug - Live Theatre Group performance Whakamaru Hall.  
 Oct - Cross Country.  
 Nov - Visited Roland Brown Musician at Settlers Hall. Athletics held Whakamaru.  
 1984 / Feb - Roll of 31. Cleaner Noeleen Belvis, Bus Driver Beatrice Cairns. School Picnic at Kinloch.  
 Mar - Swimming sports 'Pinelands' held AC Baths first time held in Taupo.  
 Apr - Waihaha Block settled - Brodies, Thompsons, Fausett and Coulters. Welcome evening held for these families.  
 Sept - Photocopier purchased. Large macrocarpa trees felled by Tony Hartley.  
 Nov - Farm & Rural Safety Day - held at Marotiri, Tihoi pupils travelled to this run by Young Farmers.  
 1985 / July - Trip to 'Limbs' dance company's performance in Taupo. '00 raised for telethon.  
 Aug - N.Z. Author Margaret Mahy visited Marotiri, Tihoi pupils joined them at school for the day.  
 Sept - Curriculum Review.  
 Dec - Aqua Pass instruction.  
 1986 / Mar - Junior school visited Tihoi Sale Yards for their annual sale. Trip to Taupo to see Circus. Chinese Pre School Advisors visited school. Crazy Day held.  
 Aug - Mrs W. Larsen appointed Teacher Aide.  
 Nov - Computer Weekend held at school F1 - F2 & S2 - S4 pupils.  
 1987 / Mar - S2 - F2 pupils hike to Titiraupenga. Juniors meet for lunch at Kakaho. Builders began school renovations.  
 Sept - School trip to Waitomo Caves. Renovations completed.  
 Oct - Jump Rope for Heart. Waikato Sports Foundation - cricket coaching.  
 Nov - Book Week. Library established.  
 1988 / Mar - Motor Rally through Tihoi.  
 July - Telethon \$510 raised.  
 Aug - Waihaha Mill closed. School watched the last log being milled.  
 Oct - Gala - Community raised \$2,500 for Phillips Rescue Helicopter.  
 Dec - Farewell for Muriwai family.  
 1989 / Feb - Mr T. Brown Relieving Principal.  
 Mrs K. Loomes Junior Class Teacher, Mrs W. Larsen Teachers Aide, Cleaner Mrs Carroll Robertson, Bus Driver Towai Cairns. Visit to compile Asset Register. Meeting held at Marotiri School topic 'Tomorrow's Schools'.  
 Mar - School picnic.  
 Apr - School Council organized 'Meet the candidates' with the Board of Trustees elections pending. 11 nominations received for Board positions.  
 Out-going School Committee: Chairperson Mr. B. Larsen, Secretary Mr. I. Coulter, Committee: Mrs C. Robertson, Mrs F. Keogh, Mr B. Neville Mrs R. Packer, Mr G. Loomes, Mr J. Bowron.  
 May - Mrs T. Rapana successful applicant as Principal. Roll 21 pupils. First Board of Trustees Meeting.  
 Successful members: Chairperson Mr A. Willoughby, Secretary Mrs N. Robinson, Mr G. Loomes, Mr J. Bowron, Mrs B. Stafford. Music programme began in school. Social evening held to welcome Rapana family and farewell Mr Brown and Mr Don Smith.  
 June - WDFF - Children knitted peggy-squares for Save the Childrens Fund for blankets.  
 Mr J. Bowron elected Chairperson following Mr A. Willoughby's resignation.  
 1990 / Feb - Board of Trustees new members H. Cairns & W. Larsen, Mrs R. Ormond Cleaner, Mrs C. Robertson Cleaner.  
 School Camp held on Marae Rotorua. Full week's activities. 20 pupils plus 5 adults accompanied children.  
 Mar - Hepatitis B vaccination programme began.  
 June - Pupils began squash coaching at Whakamaru Squash Club.  
 Aug - Disco held for end of term. Theme 'Red' invited Tirohanga & Kuratau schools.  
 Sept - Constable Keith & Sniff (TV characters).  
 Oct - Tihoi hosted Cross Country 'Pinelands'. Science Technology Road Show in Rotorua, seniors visited. Form 2 Field Trip to NZ Crafts & Arts Centre in Rotorua.  
 Nov - Inservice Course held for parents & caregivers, oral language programme, preparation for Sole Charge Teaching next year.  
 Dec - Farewell held for Mrs McCaughan.  
 1991 / Feb - Mrs T. Rapana, W. Larsen, Cleaner Mrs D. Mildenhall. Began this year as Sole Charge. Parents supplement teaching assisting with Juniors language.  
 Mar - School picnic held at school. Senior boys invited to Rugby Clinic in Tokoroa, two All Blacks present. Pinelands swimming sports Taupo.  
 April - Redex Variety Bash visited Tihoi - What a Day! Form 2 pupils invited to St. Pauls for Outdoor Activities programme.  
 May - Visit to Mokai Marae, morning tea and history of area. New computer purchased. Computer programme began.  
 June - Mobile Kindergarten Review.  
 Aug - Ski Trip to Mountain. Education Review Office Review.  
 Oct - Out 50th Year celebrations were celebrated in style during Labour Weekend with the gathering of old pupils and past teachers of the school. Our present day pupils gained from this experience and now understand the significance of the Jubilee. It was appropriate for Charlaine Adams our youngest pupil to cut the Jubilee cake. Thank you to the children for their items at the opening, you did a grand performance.  
 Dec - What a fitting close to our Jubilee Year! 'The Little Star' Operetta. All 19 pupils took part and what a splendid performance they gave. A dual role with parents making costumes and children involved. Matinee performance was well attended and a full hour for their final night. Well done Tihoi!  
 The year ends with 19 pupils - one who will go to High School and 6 will transfer to Marotiri School. So far as I know School will open with 13 pupils in 1992.  
 1992 -  
 Feb - All Black visit to Tihoi, Graeme Lowe & Simon Manix. Pinelands Rugby playing pupils attended. Two All Blacks spoke on overseas trip with the All Blacks, plus spent half an hour putting the children through some of the ball handling skills.  
 Parents and children alike delighted in this opportunity to see their very own heroes on their own grounds. Many children took the opportunity to collect autographs from the two guests before they departed.  
 - Gaye Millington made a visit to thank Tihoi School and pupils for their financial support before Gaye left on her A.F.S. Brazilian trip. Gaye outlined to the children how she attained the finance to fund the trip. Also outlined the expectations on her during the 12 months away.  
 Mar - School picnic at Waihaha.  
 Apr - Bush visit to see Totara log removed.  
 - World health day. - Tune to National Radio for the big crunch into the ENZA apples.  
 May - New Principal commenced 2nd term.  
 June - Sad loss of the Tihoi Trading Post with fire.  
 July - New B.O.T elected; J. Bowron; G. Loomes; L. Taylor; K. Crockett; T. Adams.  
 Aug - Children took part in M.S. Readathon, raised \$138.58.  
 Nov - Pet Day.

## ROAD CLOSURE - Ann Rutherford

During the winter of 1966, 32 of the 56 pupils were unable to attend school because the private road between Tihoi and the new western access highway, which was under construction, had been churned into a morass by rain and too much heavy traffic.

The road had been used extensively by large numbers of carrier trucks moving thousands of sheep and cattle and hundreds of tons of fertilizer to and from Lands and Survey Development Blocks, by contractors with the Ministry of Works building the new highway, by logging trucks and members of the public.

The drastic decision to close the road had been made during a consultation between the school teacher Mr L. Cannon, the chairman of the school committee Mr J.G.K. Rutherford, parents and the South Auckland Education Board. It was to remain closed for a month and during that time the news reached the headlines over the country and caused a real headache to authorities in Wellington. The Members of Parliament for Taupo Mrs R. Stevenson was advised, the Labour candidate to Taupo Mr B. Gustafson was told and subsequently visited the area, the Minister of Education Mr Kinsella called on the Ministry of Works to see what could be done, but Mr Allen the Minister said his Department could not finance the work on a private road.

The Taumarunui County Council which had always carried out light maintenance work on the road as a "grace and favour" for local residents also could not finance major restoration work for the same reason.

Ultimately the Government did approve grants from the National Roads Board totalling 3,000 pounds. A new spur road was to be constructed to the settlement which at this stage comprised 32 houses, 2 sawmills, the school and store. The Taumarunui County Council was to define the road and it was to be dedicated and maintained.

When school resumed for the 32 children who had been forced to stay away, it was by Landrover driven by Mr R. Norman, manager of the Waihaha Block and he had to spend 5 to 6 hours a day transporting the children. The vehicle was registered as a school bus to carry seven children only, so a shuttle system was used. School started 1 1/2 hours after the first batch of children arrived at 8.10am, lunch was reduced to half an hour and the last group in the shuttle service left school about 5pm.

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## TIHOI PRE-SCHOOL GROUP - Ngaire Albert

In 1972 a group of concerned mothers put their heads together with the idea that preschoolers should if possible attend school one morning weekly. The infant teacher Mrs Clare Phillips encouraged the scheme and allowed the use of the old staff-room at the back of the school.

The parents involved were Shirley Sinton, Rebecca Whe-tu, Polly Apiti, two mothers from Lands and Survey Blocks and myself. We worked tirelessly cleaning the room and adding homely touches such as cushions and mats. The equipment from the junior class and the methods used were basic by today's standards but many a happy moment was spent for mothers as well as the children. Life on the farms could at times get very lonely. Mobile Kindergarten was unheard of in this remote little corner of the world until the mid 1980s. Now with teacher Louise Stevens it arrives each week on the door-step of the school giving the little ones a good start towards their education.

## THE JUBILEE

### TIHOI SCHOOL AND DISTRICT 50TH JUBILEE



#### COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Dave Rapana

SECRETARY: Ngaire Albert

TREASURER: Susan Bowron

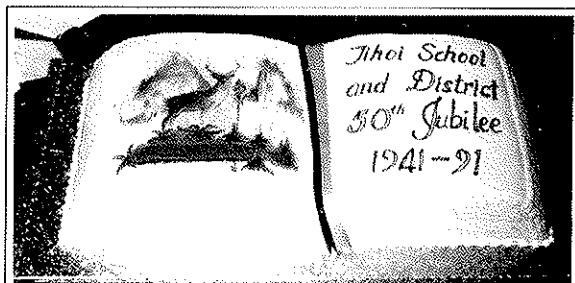
COMMITTEE: Warwick Burgess, Towai (Beatrice) Cairns, Susan Clair (nee Albert), Brian Larsen, Graeme Loomes, Rachael Ormond (nee Cairns), Brian Neville, Annie Totara (nee Akurangi).

*Chairman Dave Rapana on THE DAY*

#### THE JUBILEE - Ngaire Albert

Came Friday afternoon 25th October, 1991 and the 110' x 40' marquee was up, ready for final preparation - lighting, tables and chairs set out, the bar and flowers to give a festive look. The spare classroom was full of nostalgia with photos, newspaper clippings and memoirs from ex-residents and pupils covering the walls for everyone to enjoy, reliving events and faces of the past.

Seven o'clock saw the start of a grand weekend. Name tags were handed out followed by a 'mix and mingle' evening. The bar closed at mid-night but many were happy to stay until the early hours of the morning, singing and reminiscing.



*The memorable Jubilee Cake baked by Shirley Sinton and decorated by Christine Willoughby.*

Saturday began at 11am with the ringing of the bell by Mary-Rose Durham (nee Rata), a foundation pupil. Jubilee Chairman Dave Rapana officially welcomed everyone to the Tihoi 50th Jubilee. The official part of the weekend began with an opening prayer from Jock Joseph, ex-resident of the 1970s. Official guests included the Mayor of Taupo Mrs Joan Williamson and the Member of Parliament for Tongariro Mr Ian Peters who both addressed the gathering. Speeches were also given by ex-teachers Phil Amos and Tim Muriwai, past pupils Warwick Burgess and ex-resident Jack Rata and others.

The local school children sang Maori action songs to the delight of some 350 people who were in attendance. Our Jubilee Cake was duly cut by foundation pupil Queenie Martin (nee Rata) and the youngest pupil of Tihoi School, Charlaine Adams. It was then over towards the Tennis Courts where a Golden Elm tree was planted by foundation pupil Ada Ransfield (nee Rata) and Mr Peters. Rae-wyn Saville our photographer for the weekend took the decade photos by which time everyone was ready for lunch.

The afternoon was free. Hilton Burgess showed an old movie on video. This aroused great interest as did the newly opened Tihoi Tavern that everyone insisted on

visiting. Time was also spent visiting Molly Burgess and happily wandering through the village and mill sites. The social evening started at 7.30pm to end at 1am but again many enthusiasts stayed until all hours obviously enjoying the company and thinking 'it's just like old times'.

Sunday dawned another sunny day. A Church service conducted by Pastor Tom Lind from Mangakino commenced at 11am followed by the official closing and a barbecue lunch. This was the end of the official weekend and there was a sigh of relief from the Jubilee Committee who could now relax. The afternoon was spent under the marquee enjoying the company of the overstayers who managed to stay until the early hours of the morning again.

People travelled from far and near to attend the Jubilee - Valma Franklin came from Australia, the Kururangi family from Tologa Bay, the Morris' from Kaikohe, the Cannon, Dawson and Nankeville couples from Whangarei. The big families represented included the Simmonds, Hay, Franklin, Rata, Hepi, Gunderson and Brown. There were many others, too numerous to mention.

Everyone had great pleasure recalling the past and it was a memorable occasion for all.

The weather was superb with sunshine from Friday to Sunday. It rained all day Monday but that did not matter. The weekend had been a success.



Foundation pupils and residents. Back row from left:  
L. Franklin, B. Turei (Hohepa), M. Durham (nee Rata), J. Rata.  
Front row: V. Franklin, Q. Martin (nee Rata), C. Hay, A. Ransfield  
(nee Rata), R. Paerata.



Tihoi 50th Jubilee Committee and Tihoi School Board of Trustees.  
Back row from left: B. Larson, J. Bowron (Chairman BOT),  
W. Burgess, D. Rapana, G. Loomes.  
Middle row: S. Clair (nee Albert), H. Cairns, B.T. Cairns, A.  
Totara (nee Akurangi), R. Ormond (nee Cairns).  
Front row: W. Larson, B. Neville, T. Rapana, S. Bowron, B.  
Stafford, N. Albert, T. Adams (nee Akurangi), J. McCabe.



Teachers of Tihoi School. Back row from left:  
D. Morris, L. McCaughan, H. Cannon, J. Muriwai,  
E. Brock,  
Front row: P. Amos, D. Morris, T. Rapana, L. Cannon,  
T. Muriwai, R. Brock.

#### TIHOI POPULATION MARCH 1954

The total population of the Tihoi District at March 1, 1954 was exactly 200. The population of each village was as follows:

Tihoi	142
Waihaha	35
State Hydro	23
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>

The following details show the number of children, adults and Maoris:

School children - 46
Teenagers (16-21) - 18
Infants - 49
Adults - 86
<b>TOTAL - 200</b>

Total Maoris - 117
Total Pakehas - 83
Maori children - 59
Pakeha children - 36

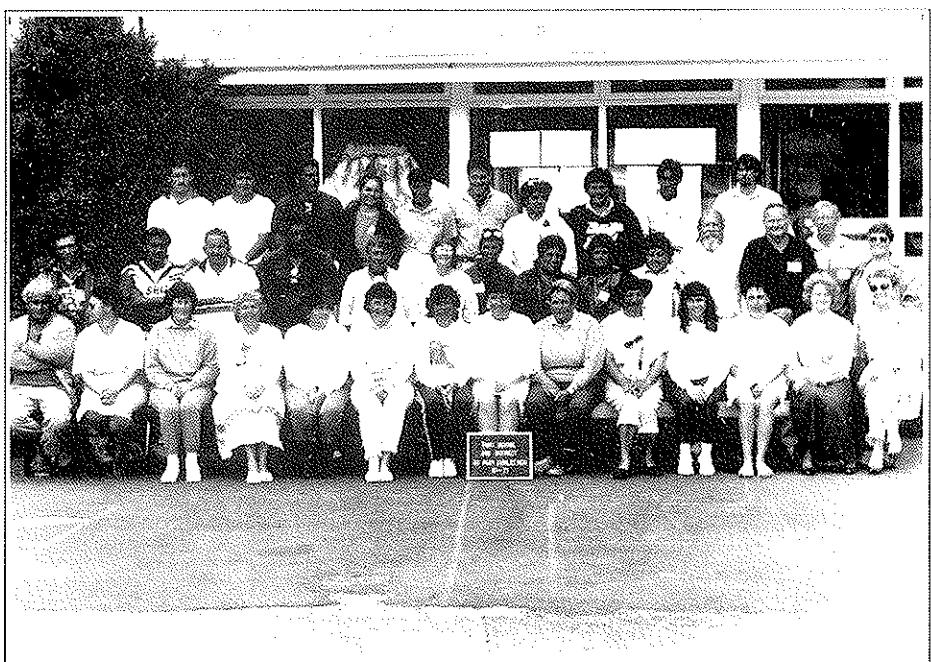
*Pupils, teachers and residents 1941-1951*



*Pupils, teachers and residents 1951-1961*



*Pupils, teachers and residents 1961-1971*





*Pupils, teachers and residents 1971-1981*



*Pupils, teachers and residents 1981-1991*





## WAIHAHA SAWMILLING COMPANY

Ann Rutherford



The last of the old-time sawmills in the Taupo District, the Waihaha Sawmilling Company ceased operation in 1988. Forty years earlier when the first cut was made, the area was remote with a rugged access, no power was available nor telephone and with the nearest services over 50 miles away the mill was required to be as self-supporting as possible.

The operation developed as the result of the postwar national shortage of timber.

A small company was formed by Gordon Rutherford a Tuakau farmer and George Nicks a timber merchant of Takapuna, members of their families and Aubrey Hopkins a mill wright.

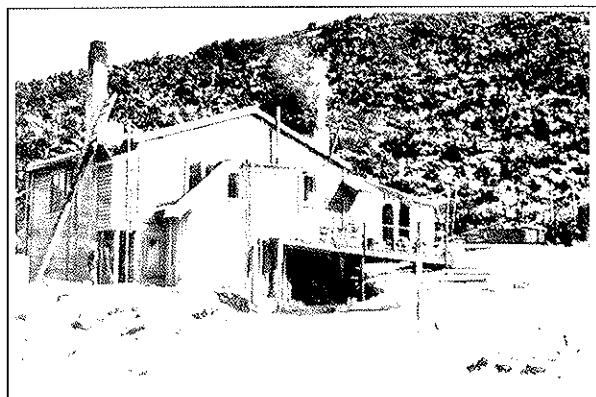
Cutting rights were obtained in the Crown area, Waihaha and the original mill was brought piecemeal from Arohena 80 miles distant; a ten ton boiler being carted on the back of a logging truck. After a couple of years the lack of dry wood to fire the boiler and faults being evident in the mill, it was decided to completely rebuild and install a diesel engine.

The only diesel motor available was from a Crusader Army Tank and it was obtained from Mason Brothers in Auckland. The motor worked for 22 years before being sold for quarry work at Taihape.

The work was carried out by Aubrey and the new mill began operating in 1950.

Just a few houses now remain where once there were many buildings with the sawmill, offices, sheds, a club, a cookhouse and singlemen's quarters. Over the years ten houses were built, five being through a State Advances scheme and all had wood stoves for cooking and heating water. Services were installed and maintained; a pump and water tank, reticulation, drainage, septic tanks and soakholes.

Initially one of the greatest problems was getting hands - they'd take one look and go off! Pig-hunting proved to be the biggest attraction to the area and over forty years the mill was staffed in the main by members of only two or three families. Occasionally some wives would stack battens or plane timber.



Waihaha Cookhouse 1953

Wyn Wagner took on the contract with his "boys" to fell the trees and transport the logs to the skids, mainly rimu, although other logs appeared also, the logs being decided by the Forest Service marking the trees.

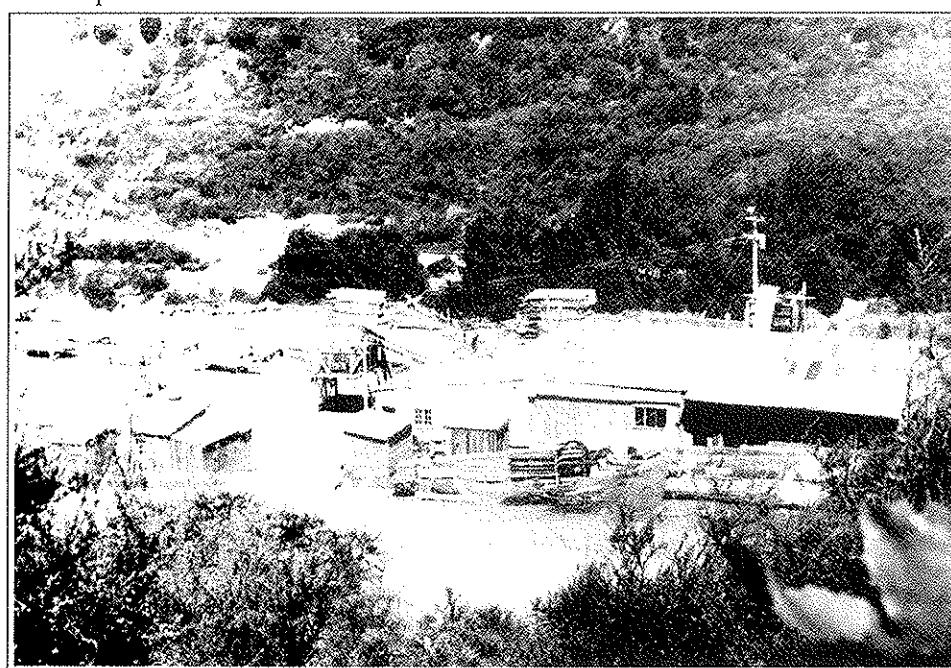
Where there is quietness now there was once the activity of trucks, tractors, loaders, motors, welding equipment and saws. Petrol tanks were installed, pits were dug for vehicle maintenance and repair and for engineering and maintenance there was a comprehensive assortment of equipment and tools.

Staff and dependants grew to 60 people. The Workers Social Club got under-way and with the successful football club became the centre of a lively entertainment that still brings a gleam to the eye of those who participated. Until Brewery deliveries some years later, Gordon with a ute-load of "liquid refreshment" became a familiar sight on the road to Tihoi. Bread, meat, milk and papers were logging truck backloads from Putaruru three times weekly for many years.

Gordon sold his farm and lived at the mill during the week and as chairman of the Tihoi School Committee for many years he employed men with large families to maintain a two-teacher status for the school. A vehicle for school bus use and for emergencies was always available. A telephone installed in 1951 was not always operable and once the line disappeared completely and was ultimately located being used as fencing wire.

The company generated its own power for a limited period daily, generally two hours each morning when the family washes would be carried out and again in the evening. Bedtime was decided by Gordon who at 9.50pm would set out from his house and walk to the generator and give a warning flick. He then walked around the mill back to the switch and turned it off at exactly 10pm.

When a moratorium was placed on native timber in the 1970s a fight for survival ensued and successful representations were made to four Ministers of the Crown to obtain logs and so keep the boys in work and their families in homes. Douglas Fir was given a trial and with encouraging results, the conversion rate bettering some of the modern band-saw mills. Research was carried out on the product, its uses and sales potential and if the long haul



Waihaha Sawmill

for logs from Waimahia on the Napier Road, could prove viable.

A decision was made to go ahead and it was a great change for the mill and for the men. No more large logs that required washing and breaking down on the skids, no grading, no contractors and no longer the "smell of the native".

An advantage of the mill to cut any length meant sales all over the North Island, mainly for beams. Ultimately timber was shipped to Australia where the precision cut and quality could even head off Canadian competition. The turn-of-the-Century White planer was still going strong! Ray Henson who died in 1991 became the first manager in 1970 and enabled Gordon, then resident in Taupo to take life more easily. Ray was an exceptional guy in that he could turn his hand to anything - the office work, the mill, sawdoctoring, mechanics of any kind and also any maintenance required in the village. He had the great ability to assess a situation and take what would prove to be the correct decision. His background had included similar work at the then isolated and now defunct Tarawera Mill. Names from the past include the Baker and Hunter families, Ray Taylor, mainstay Matt Harrison, the Alberts, sawdoctors Tom Duff and Jim Hargreaves, Ted Small and Albert Martin who together with his wife Helen were forever building, gardening and painting; Kerry Crockett, foreman in the latter years and Mrs Christiansen who for 14 years "manned" the cookhouse and whose quality and quantity of food was renowned.

Gordon died in 1982 and I, his wife then lent a hand to help keep the mill operating. Gordon's son Nick was involved on site and in transporting timber during the early years and his son Bill worked there whenever he could when growing up, then had the final task of clearing the site of the accumulation of forty years.



*The large haul - totara.*

At the Waihaha Sawmill a group of families kept one special bank account for use in emergencies. Each family would contribute on pay-day and if an emergency arose, the fund would be used. At the end of the year any surplus finds would go towards the annual Christmas party.

## YOU IN YOUR SMALL CORNER

### **The late Gordon (JGK) Rutherford.**

As one who travels frequently - all too frequently - between the large city of Auckland and the small city of Tihoi and the village of Waihaha, it is my privilege to bring down with me many new, some temporary, residents for Waihaha, mainly the best type of New Settler to New Zealand.

Their reactions are so similar that I know beforehand what to say and do. After a bright chatty trip to Putaruru where we fortify ourselves for the rigours ahead about which of course my passenger is blissfully ignorant, darkness and a certain thoughtful quiet sets in.

We plug along through Tokoroa which raises hopes a little... the barometer definitely rises .. only to fall like a stone as we rush through the endless tunnel of pines. 'Whakamaru' my remark is 'The greatest dam in the world; man's taming of nature' or something equally fatuous. This wakes my passenger up to his last sight of what all his life he has taken for granted - electric power. But I think in view of what is to come he should know that such a thing still exists merely twenty miles away. But he has hardly had time to gaze at all those hundreds of lights, big and small, when we cease rushing and begin an intricate dance over washouts and potholes - the Tihoi road. (No reflection on the road gang. It's not always that way). The passenger is fully awake now. I can read his thoughts. 'Is he being lured to a lonely spot to be robbed or murdered'? I say cheerfully, 'Lots of the land development around here houses everywhere if you could see them'.

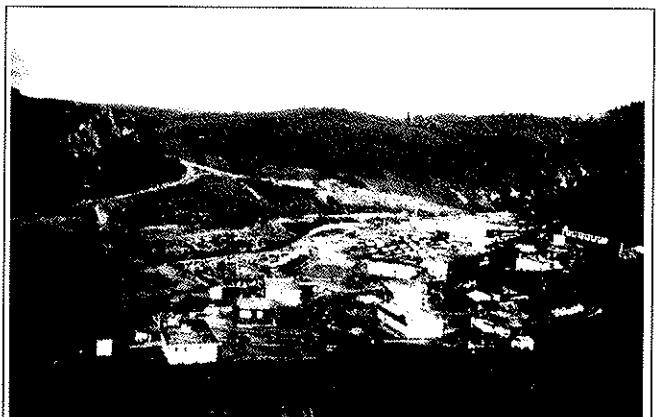
Then the Mokai-Whakamaru turnoff and at the top of the rise I know my cue. I stop. On the pretence of seeing a man about a dog, I slip around the back of the Rover and lock the other door. From Apple-Tree Bridge to the Army Camp the headlights sweep over the wastes of scrub and tussock, the frost gathers on the windscreens and I talk and talk. Anything - the expense of living in town, that soul-destroying eight o'clock bus, the delights of hunting, shooting and fishing - anything to play for time.

The Army Camp and a breathing space. Then a quick short burst and the Tihoi Trading Post lights (benzine). Invariably, and always at this precise moment, my passenger jerks upright and exclaims ominously 'Have you electric power at you mill'?

My answer to him falls like the atom bomb on Hiroshima, 'no, but I'll lend you a candle'.

I deliver my man in a dead faint.

(Written in 1954 for the newsletter 'The Tihoi Outpost')



*Waihaha village in 1953*



## FARMING

### MAORI AFFAIRS DEVELOPMENT - Beau Albert

The football field was once the only piece of grassed land on the Hurakia Block. In 1968 the Department of Maori affairs, now the Iwi Transition Agency, Rotorua, developed the block on behalf of the 'landowners'. Hurakia comprises some 5,800 acres and extends on both sides of the Tihoi Road, bordering St. Paul's Venture School and the Burgess farm in the north and encompassing a lengthy portion of the Waikura River, heading towards Lake Taupo in an easterly direction.

For many years the area supported very poor vegetation, namely manuka, monowai, bracken fern and tussock, whilst along the ranges and foot-hills behind the Tatana home-stead stood heavy bush. At one time some of the land-owners lived around this area which was known as Opa, and also around the football field where there were three or four homes. The owners worked in the bush splitting posts until such time that the majority left to take up employment on the Railways and in sawmills.

During development, the contractors Ammon and Son (Mark), operated their bulldozers and heavy rollers under the supervision of Field Supervisor Addie Mitchell. After crushing, a big 'burn-off' was done, followed by discing, harrowing and grassing. Some 800 acres was first completed and the bush left untouched, then Eddie Rika and his sons Haydie and Eddie started fencing. Old Eddie Rika lived in the huts by the Waikura River and remained almost three years to complete the boundary and sub-division fencing.

The first stock comprising 1,000 hoggets were brought onto the station in late 1969, followed by 180 head of 20 month Angus Heifers. These heifers were walked from Gisborne to Rotorua and later became the base herd for

the breeding programme. It was hard on the cattle in those early days as they were used continuously to keep re-growth of scrub at bay, until pasture was well underway.

A newly developed piece of land is not without its problems. The pastures received a heavy dressing of fertilizer to precipitate growth and as a result clover was dominant and bloat became a problem for a few years. Mustering was a challenge for staff too, because paddocks were as large as 150 acres or more and rough patches of scrub areas were common sights on difficult hill slopes. Hours could be spent chasing sheep in complete circles testing both man and dog to full potential. The woolshed had its problems as well, with no yards, so that iron standards and netting were 'make-do' yards until the Department planned and had some built.

The Army worm threatened grass growth and in 1972 the grass grub invasion that we remember so well moved in from the north and left evidence of pasture damage everywhere.

As the farm progressed with pasture improvement, stock numbers increased to full capacity wintering 700 breeding cows and 6,500 ewes plus 1700 hoggets. Staff remained the same - two shepherds, a farmhand and myself as manager. Because brucellosis and T.B. were spreading rapidly in the area, about the late 1970s the breeding cows were replaced with steers bought to fatten and sell to the freezing works as three year olds. This remained the farm policy until the farm was returned to the landowners.

With the introduction of deer farming into New Zealand we had the ideal natural environment. Some further 250 acres of bushland was cleared and fenced in 1980. A capturing pen was included using the 'trip-gate' system, enabling live capture of deer from the wild. Deer numbers were built up to 70 hinds and retaining the 'offspring' using a cross-bred Wapiti Stag. This improved the size and meat production but as T.B. was still a threat, hinds were replaced with stags for velvet (which averaged 2 kg) and for fattening for the freezing works.

In 1979 Te Kohatu Block was developed. Situated at the norther end of the Burgess farm it includes the Kakaho Pa site. It was developed and operated as Hurakia but deer farming was not carried out.

I managed Hurakia Block from the beginning of development to mid 1990, a span of 20 years. It was then handed back to the landowners debt free, the mortgage having been paid off. It is now run by Trustees appointed on behalf of the owners. Te Kohatu is also operated as a Trust, as from July 1991.

Hurakia Block contributed children to the Tihoi Primary School, whilst Te Kohatu is included in the Marotiri area.



Tihoi, showing part of bush and undeveloped land.

## LAND & SURVEY FARMING

### Shirley and Neville Sinton

In 1956 Lands & Survey, Te Kuiti had the go ahead to develop what was called the Waihaha Block, an area of 27,700 acres of which 21,700 acres was broken in and ring fenced. The remaining 6,000 was handed back to the Crown.

The first Manager of Waihaha was Max Hamilton. After the initial development large numbers of wethers and steers were used to control fern and scrub reversion. At one stage Otaipuhi alone had 18,000 wethers on the block.

In 1965 Waihaha was split up with the smaller block being named Motere. In subsequent years Waihaha was again divided thus forming Otaipuhi, Motere, Kotuku and Hingarae. The reason being smaller units could be more efficiently managed.

In 1971 Hingarae - Manager Noel Dunn, Kotuku - Manager Boydie Albert, Motere - Manager Les Williams, and Otaipuhi - Manager Neville Sinton, with an area in grass of 14,000 acres carried the following stock: -

36,000 breeding ewes

16,000 replacement and other sheep

2,300 breeding cows

2,800 replacement and other cattle

Settlement of Hingarae was in 1982 with a total of three units settled, followed by Kotuku in 1983 (3 units) and then by one unit from Motere and three units from Otaipuhi in 1984.

It was decided in 1979 to establish a deer farm on Otaipuhi. Deer traps and fencing were erected on the bush boundary but this proved unrealistic because of poachers, so 120 acres was deer fenced behind the Otaipuhi Manager's house. Because of the T.B. problem it was decided in 1985 to sell off the hinds and buy in weaner stags to fatten for the export venison trade. The

hinds were sold at the Taupo Deer complex and realised \$350,000, this being the peak period for hind prices.

The main road in the 1950s to 1963 was the so called Hydro track. In 1963 Egmont Development put the road through as far as Motere, Green and McCahill finished the road past the now Tihoi Trading Post and Tavern.

Power was not available until mid 1965, the line coming through from Kuratau Power Station.



Developing the Waihaha Block



Waihaha Block

### THE NEW SETTLERS - James and Susan Bowron

In 1982 the Lands and Survey Department began a programme of balloting farms off their Blocks in the area, bringing in new Settlers, most of whom had school age children.

This brought a change within the community as more land went into private ownership and the extra children were made welcome in the school by the then Principal Mr Tim Muriwai. Roll numbers began to increase with the Bowron, Loomes and Paget families being the first three to arrive with six school aged children in the first year followed by four more families the second year and a further four farms the final year.

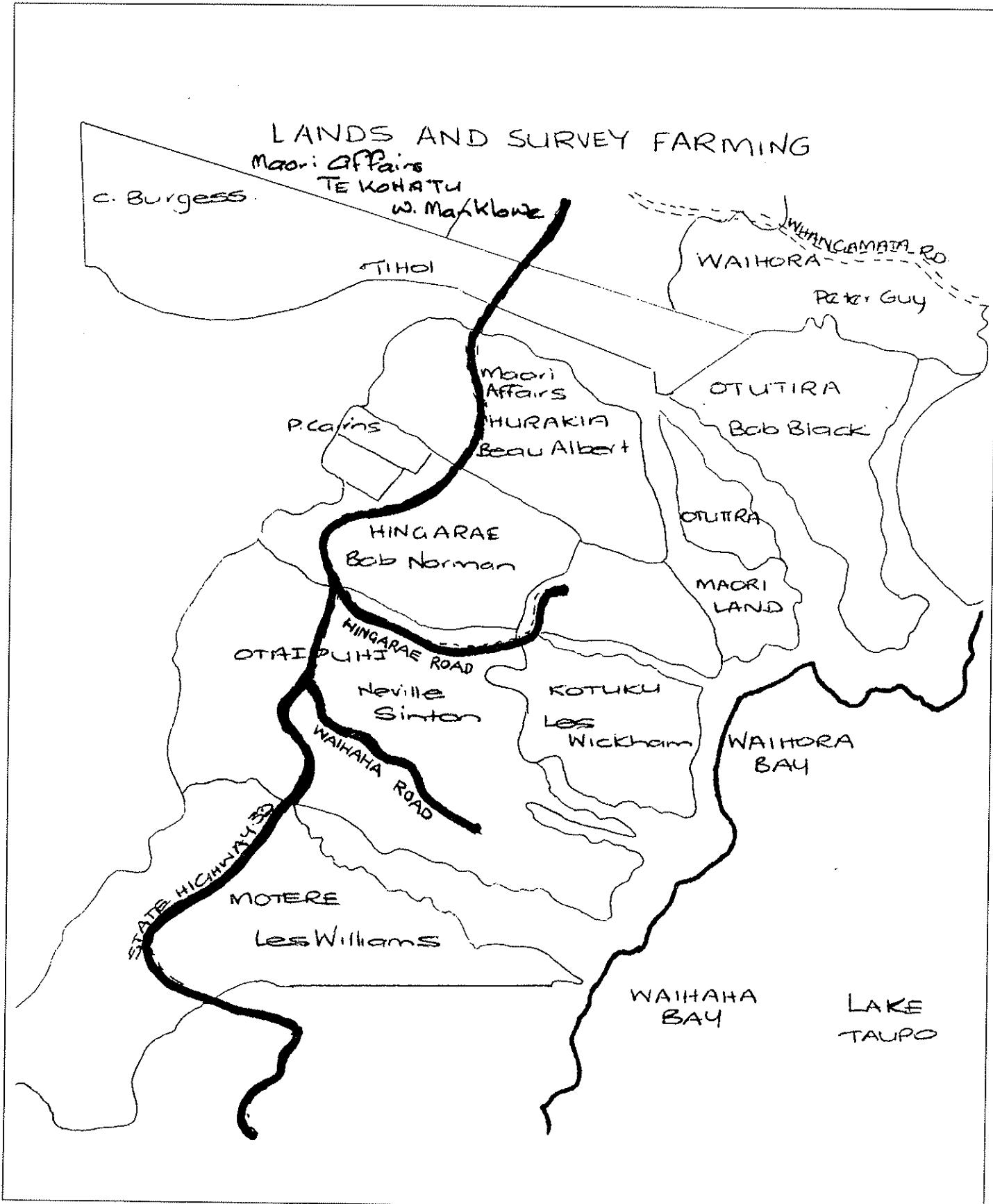
Unfortunately, in 1985 the settlement programme was terminated because of the downturn in the farming economy with another four farms ready to be sold. The farms settled included the Hingarae and Kotuku Blocks and part of the Motere and Otaipuhi Blocks.

Settlers came from the King Country, Hawkes Bay, Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

In the Conditions of Offering for the Hingarae Block in 1982, Marotiri was stated as the nearest Primary School and one family spoke to several people in the Hamilton Education Board before they could confirm that yes there was a school at Tihoi. On our first visit to the school it was obvious to us that the local people took great pride in their school and its grounds which are nestled in what seemed a remote part of the country.

It is interesting to note that some people from Marotiri when asked where they come from, have been heard to reply, 'Tihoi' with the name being an older and more widely known locality.

Since 1984 a couple of the farms have been sold, however, the majority of the farms are still in their original ownership.



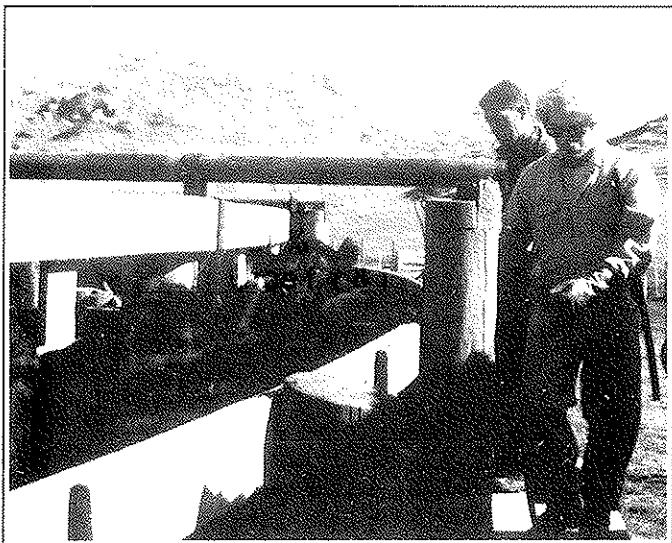
The Waihaha Block, formerly managed by Neville Sinton, was divided into the four sub-blocks Otaipuhi, Motere, Kotuku and Hingarae. The sketch map shows those areas together with their first magagers. Also outlined are Otutira and Waihaha blocks plus the Burgess and Cairns Properties. Hurakia is a Maori Affairs Department development. The sketch portrays the extent of Lakeshore Reserve and the watershed areas that are retired from grazing. Nearby blocks and their original managers are: Tihoi, Alec Fraser; Marotiri, Roger McGlade; Otaki, Glen Campin; Kawakawa, Doug Semmins; Puketapu, Barry Dawson; Kakaho, John Stringfellow. Information supplied by Neville Sinton.

## TUBERCULOSIS IN CATTLE - Hilton Burgess

The Tuberculosis problem in cattle was first apparent in the early 1970s in the Tihoi area but it originated around 1956 when the first opossums moved into the area.

The T.B. disease arrived with cattle imported from T.B. prone areas and eventually it spread to the opossums, wild pigs and deer. Cattle are tested by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and any found infected are culled and slaughtered. However a clean herd can be reinfected, thought to be caused by opossums moving over pasture at night and spreading the infection on the grass that cattle eat.

Opossum poisoning operations from the air had been carried out during 1978 in sections of native bush and scrub areas but this appeared only to contain the problem for a period. Infected opossums from neighbouring areas eventually move into the poisoned blocks. It seems that T.B. in cattle will continue unless a biological control is discovered, such as a disease to cause sterility in opossums. The cost of ridding the country of opossum is too high and maybe could never be achieved. In the meantime the disease continues to effect the economy of the Tihoi area.



*Tuberculosis testing on Hurakia*

## EARLY DAYS OF THE RABBIT BOARD - Tony Nixon

What a problem these animals have been around the Tihoi and Waihaha Districts.

In 1956 in the days when Rod Campbell and Bruce Merrin were farm managers for the Lands and Surveys Department it was planned to attack the rabbits. Pasture, especially winter supplementary growth such as swedes and soft turnips had no chance to grow because rabbits waited to consume them in their early stages of growth.

Early days of poisoning were first carried out using phosphorus paste and pellets. Following plough lines of phosphorus the rabbits were in such great numbers that Rabbit Board staff led by Phillip Bryan and Mary Hepi (Brown) just could not put enough poison on the lines to effectively reduce the rabbit numbers.

When 1080 poison was first introduced, Waihaha was generally acclaimed as the Central Otago of the North Island. Carrots, hundreds of tons were aerially dropped in the Waihaha area for the next three winters.

The bagged carrots were shipped to Napier then trucked to Tihoi and stacked in Doug Hay's post yard. The word

spread quickly that these carrots were not poisoned. Needless to say Chris and Molly Burgess did not sell a carrot over the Tihoi Trading Post counter for quite some time - years!

The rabbiter of the 1950s and 1960s was a far cry from the Pest Destruction staff of today. In those early times horses and dogs were used for control as well as the rabbiter's own car. Those pumice tracks were hard on vehicles and nothing was more nerve-racking than negotiating the bridges from the Apple Tree to the Banana.

Having now been out of Pest Destruction for two years I guess that the rabbit problem will live in the Tihoi district till day's end. With such large areas of Lake Reserve and forests rabbits with their opossum pals will give man a problem for evermore.

## MEMORIES OF TIHOI - Ngaire Albert

Tihoi became our home for twenty years during which time we saw many changes taking place. We had been living and working on the Maori Affairs Kokako Block at Lichfield when the development on Hurakia was near completion and my husband Beau was the successful applicant to manage the farm.

In December 1970 with our two sons Jason and Robert, we moved into the brick house. Oram Hepi who was residing in the Tihoi Village became our first employee.

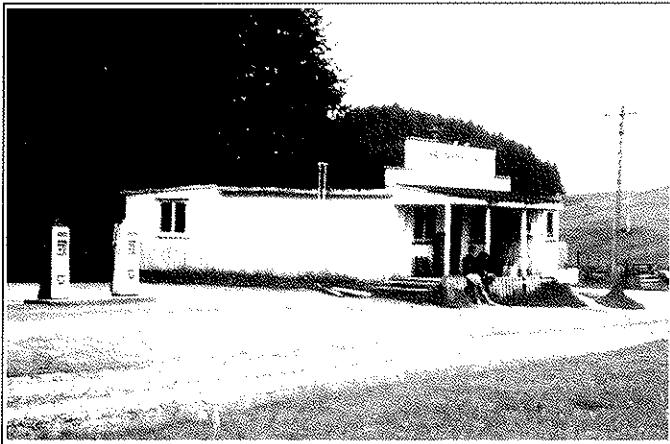
The weather has always been an interesting factor in Tihoi. The summers of the early seventies being hot and dry starting as early as October and continuing until March when we would experience our first frost for the year. A sure sign winter had almost arrived. Strong winds had the habit of arriving every February and we remember the freshly ploughed paddock across the road being transformed into a thick cloud of dust.

We remember the droughts too, the worst being 1974 and 1978. After little rain and dry winds in October, by March the farms became scorched deserts and water was precious. In 1978 the stream on the Bowron farm ran dry and this was the main water supply for Hingarae Block. Water had to be carted into the area.

The summers were hot and winters bitterly cold. You couldn't believe how cold after the hot summers. The frosts always started in March and continued for weeks, with June and July having up to 20 and 25 per month. Frozen waterpipes were a constant problem and a bucket of water was kept each night, otherwise it was a quick trip up the ladder to the water tank! We did not have the fog problem of these days though. Today, the weather is very much a guessing game.

The weather changed and so did the district. Road construction began to link Tarata Road with the Ben Lomond Road thus making a direct route to Taupo. Cutting through the top of Mokai was completed in 1969 and is now known as Poihipi Road. En-route to Taupo was once via Marotiri Road on a different route, through Mokai village and to Oruanui via Forest Road, thence to Wairakei and on the old winding State Highway 1. State Highway 32 was completed and sealed in 1970. Together, the new Poihipi Road, State Highway 32 and improvement from Oruanui and through Wairakei have cut 40 minutes of tortuous driving between Tihoi and Taupo. For Tihoi it has meant the end of isolation and the beginning of a whole new era - and a race track for motor vehicles. Marotiri Road was later sealed and now Whangamata Road is in its final stages of sealing.

We recall the devastating news of the Tihoi Mill closing, which was a shock for the whole community. St. Paul's



Tihoi Trading Post with petrol pumps

however, set up their Venture School on the site and this has been an added strength to the community. In later years the Waihaha Mill also closed.

The first of the Ballot farmers arrived in 1980 with the Sherrard and Smith families north of the Trading Post. In 1982 the first farms were settled south of Tihoi.

Our fondest memories are of the people. How could we forget Frank Rivers at rugby, faithful bottle of Waikato in hand, abusing players. I believe Frank was quite a strong player himself. We often think of the many times he couldn't make it up the hill to his home after a night at the Club, so would stumble some-where in the lupins to sleep.

We have memories of Rena Rata running up and down the sideline with baby under one arm encouraging the Tihoi players.

John Armstrong who loved to yodel at the Club when he had one too many and was always being told 'shut up, you're making too much noise' when everyone else was making just as much noise.

Sad Sack whose first name we never knew, roaring through the village at ten miles an hour in his green Vanguard that was held together with a block of wood.

Charlie Tatana the war veteran who lived in his family home on Hurakia and drove a Supersnipe, despite a wooden leg. One day Charlie was driving up the hill to his house with sun blinding him when he bellied his car right on top of a four year old steer that was sitting on the roadway. Charlie walked all the way to Hawkins' home for help.

Polly Hepi, a big lady with a big heart, very softly spoken and respected by all who knew her.

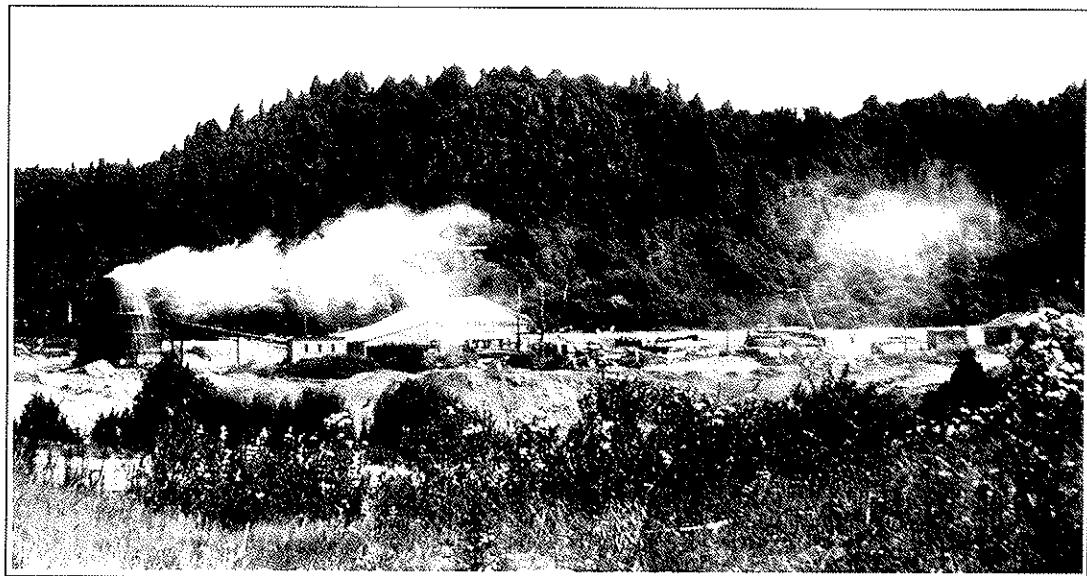
'JB' as we called him, our master musician and singer. He always kept us entertained.

Jock McCabe, Tihoi's own Mayor and a wealth of knowledge.

What else do we remember about Tihoi? Queuing up outside the Tihoi Trading Post with a shopping list waiting my turn to go in and be served over the counter by Chris or Molly Burgess... Singing Christmas carols under the 'BP' sign at the Trading Post organised by Viv Kumeroa. The last New Year party in the Club in 1978 before it closed and St. Paul's took over.

These were happy times, the simplicity and lifestyle of the Tihoi people who had little but would give the shirt off their back in times of need. Unfortunately we suffered sadness too, with the loss of our son Jason, who loved the open space, hunting and the bush, the simple things in life that we all take so much for granted.

Now living 20 kilometres north at Marotiri, we look back at memories, of life's simple treasures which we found at Tihoi. First and foremost we thank Chris and Molly Burgess who gave us so much kindness and support. Without it we may not have had a farm of our own now.



Tihoi Mill 1972

## SPORTING



### SPORTS DAYS

Tihoi Sports Day always caused great excitement. This day is believed to have been started by Rangi Rata, a well-known figure in the 1940s.

Sports Days were held at various settlements such as Mokai, Oruanui-Maroa, Tutukau, Khan's Mill and Durham's Mill near Ongaroto. The Tihoi Day was held near the club which is now St. Paul's dining-room with the chopping event opposite the workshop-garage, beneath Tutakamoana. Wood chopping was the main event, arousing much interest from spectators. A women's chopping event was always held and their men folk could be heard to comment 'if I'd known my wife was so good I'd have given up chopping firewood a long time ago'.

Other events to be held were sprints for children and adults, egg and spoon races, obstacle races and three legged racing. Prizes were given to the child victors, usually 1/0 (10c) or 6d (5c).

The children's marathon for the McLean/Franklin Cup was also run on the day, later being changed to a school event. A dance night always followed the sports day and everybody, visitors and even soldiers from the Army Camp would quickly get into the swing and have a great time.

### JUNIOR ADVISORY BOARD RUGBY

**- Eddie Hawkins**

A Jubilee is a wonderful thing in the life of any School and Community and over the past 50 years many people have worked hard for them. The School is a vital part of the district and from the school sport plays a part in the district's involvement. J.A.B. Rugby is no exception to any community. Boydie Albert was the first to begin the J.A.B. Rugby on Saturday mornings held in Taupo. Having no sons did not deter either Tim Muriwai or Eddie Hawkins from being involved with Junior Rugby. In fact it was for the love of the sport. The boys were keen and determined young lads. Tihoi School was unable to field a full team on their own so they combined with Marotiri School to fill the team. Practice was once weekly, weather permitting, of course.



*Tihoi Junior Rugby Team 1972.*

*Back row from left: S. Rata, M. Palmer, T. Mackey, R. Albert, P. Albert.*

*Front row: D. Rata, E. Kumeroa, H. Albert, A. Maika, P. Maika.*

### Rugby Achievements:

Eddie Kumeroa Jnr.- Taupo Ross Shield Rep. 1977; Hawkes Bay Rep. 1977; Dion Cairns - Counties U/16 Rep. 1986, Counties Secondary Rep. 1988, Wesley College 1st XV Cpt. 1988, Wesley College Sevens 1988; Jason Ngamotu - Taupo Ross Shield Rep. 1983; Billy Floyd - Taupo Ross Shield Rep. 1985 & 1986, Bay of Plenty Secondary Rep. 1991; Ramon Hart - Taupo Ross Shield Rep. 1987; Frank Rivers - Taupo Ross Shield Rep. 1987; Michael Bowron - Taupo Ross Shield Rep. 1988; Michael Keogh - Taupo Graham Shield Rep. 1990; Daniel Hart - King Country U/14 Rep. 1990 & 1991; Wayne Ormond - Taupo Ross Shield Rep. 1988 & 1989, King Country U/14 Rep. 1990 & 1991.



*Tihoi-Marotiri Combined 1979.*

*Back row from left: E. Hawkins (coach), D. Cairns, A. Denton, K. Brown, M. Harding, W. Hata, P. Harding, T. Muriwai (coach).*

*Front row: B. Denton, G. Laidlaw, T. Howden, J. Albert, D. Sinton, R. Albert, E. Harding, M. Crockett, C. Black.*

## JUNIOR NETBALL - Leslie Hawkins

1974 was the start of Junior Netball on Saturday mornings held in Taupo with Mrs Hazel Cairns and Mrs McNicollson being the coaches.

1983 was the first of 6 years of being involved with and coaching Junior Netball. Like the J.A.B. Tihoi School was lacking numbers on the court, so they combined with Marotiri School. With players being few and far between practice meant meeting once weekly at Marotiri Netball Courts.

Braving the cold, frosty and sometimes wet Saturday mornings showed sheer dedication to the sport from the team members as well as the parents. Thanks to the parents that showed up every Saturday morning to give vocal support, this was most uplifting for the teams. The girls had good team spirit and were well disciplined on and off the courts, win or lose. Taupo Form 2 Rep. 1988 was Angela Hawkins. In 1990 both Belinda and Angela Hawkins were selected for Taupo U/16 Reps. Thanks must go to other coaches that helped out. Jovita Floyd, Rangi Packer, Ed Hawkins. Also thanks to parent and community supporters.



Tihoi Netball 1984.

Back row from left: A. Hawkins, A. Robertson, D. Davies, F. Hull, L. Hawkins (coach).

Front row: A. Ngamotu, J. Crockett, B. Hawkins, R. Loomes, L. Emerson.

## TIHOI RUGBY

-Trevor Albert

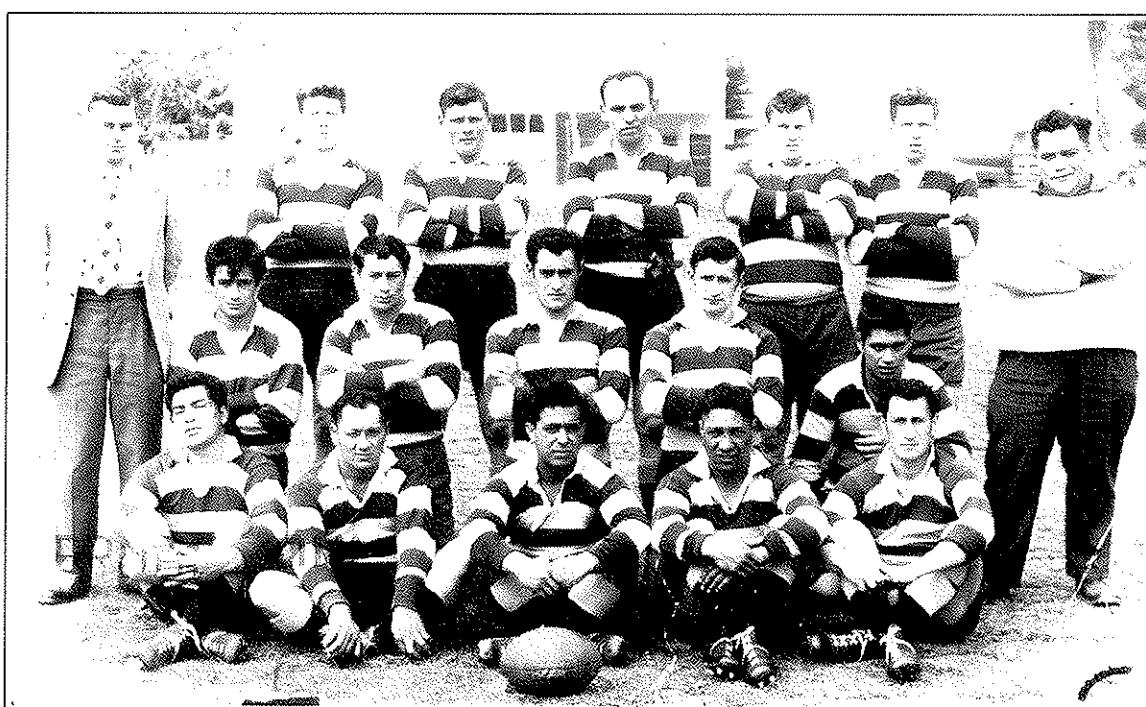
The Rugby Club appears to have started about 1940, firstly under the name of Opa, with the name Tihoi used a few years later. The first rugby field was outside the present St. Paul's kitchen and possibly four years later the present rugby field was established. Rangi Rata, other workers from the mills and bushmen helped develop the field.

The Rata family played a big part in Tihoi rugby during these early years with Rangi as coach and referee and his sons Jerry, Colin and Jack playing along with Sam Andrews from Mokai, Rongo Parata, Neil Rickett, Frank Rivers, Frank Beckett and others.

How the club fared in those days is hard to discover and my first involvement was in 1958 when a shepherd on the Waihaha Lands and Survey Block.

The team had been coached by Hori Deane who now lives in Putaruru. We struggled to fill a team then but we never defaulted a game. When we travelled to Mangakino which had ten clubs at the time, we picked up who-ever we could from the Mangakino Hotel. Some of the players were a bit the worse for wear but they made up the numbers.

Some of the regular players at this time were Hori Deane and the late Reg Whare who became coach in 1964, the Hepi brothers Joeba and Matangi, and Ron Beckett as well as my brother Boydie. Others were Frank and Jim Rivers,



Tihoi Rugby Team 1961.

Back row from left: H. Nairn (manager), A. Scott, B. Dawson, T. Nixon, B. Beckett, J. Scott, R. Whare (coach).

Middle row: P. Brown, T. Albert, M. Rata, ?, J. Rivers.

Front row: D. Marshall, B. Albert, T. Dick, S. Totora, B. Rata.

Colin Hay, Digger Tawhai and Don Marshall, a half-back in the same mould as Sid Going. Three other top half-backs were Tony Dick, Peter Brown and Bosun Rata. As the development of farms by Land And Survey increased so did the improvement of our rugby team with farm workers and farmers' sons helping to boost our numbers to the extent that we won the Mangakino competition in 1961, the last year of the Mangakino Sub-union.

Rep players in those early years playing for the Mangakino Sub-union, the Waikato Maoris and the New Zealand Maori trials were few, with Peter Brown and I two lucky ones to make the Waikato Maoris and N.Z. Maori Trials. In 1962 the Mangakino teams joined the Taupo Sub-union where Tihoi held its own. Taupo Old Boys was then the top team. Fortunes changed, for a number of our players were then making Taupo Rep sides and Hawkes Bay by Maoris - Peter Brown and three Alberts, Bruce, Boydie and myself. Bruce made the Hawkes Bay team 1969-70.

In 1965 Tihoi and Taupo United were joint holders of the Garret Shield. In 1966, 1967 and 1968 Tihoi won the Garrett Shield as well as a number of trophies outright. During these years player numbers had really increased.

Seven sets of brothers played for the club; Allan and John Scott, Peter and John Brown, Boydie and Massey Rata, Ian

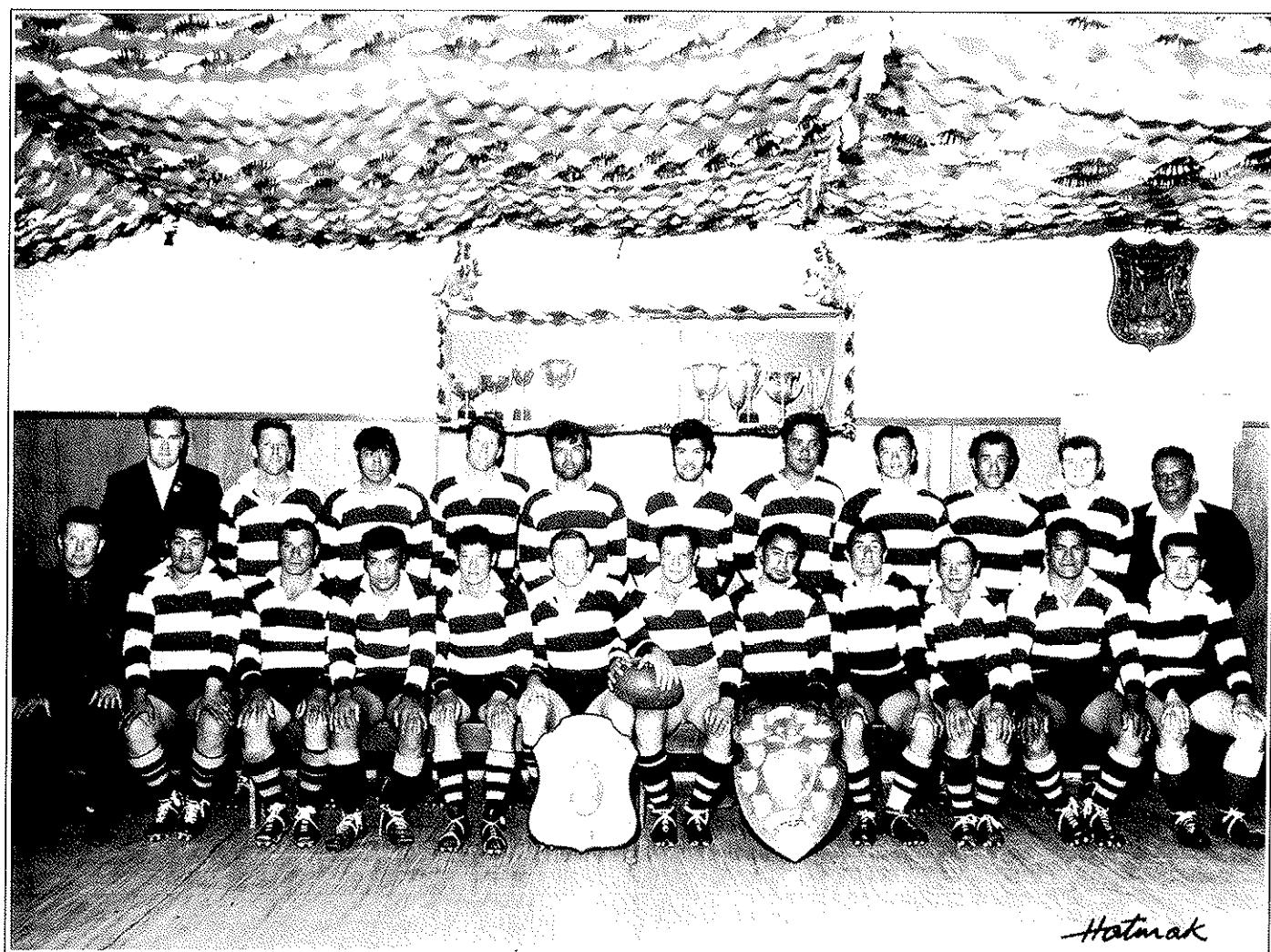
and Roger Bedford, Koro and Tony Rotorangi, Tom and Bruce Lincoln and the Albert brothers Boydie, Ernie, Joe, myself, Edwin (Beau), Bruce, Eric and George.

In the 1940s until the early 1960s players were mainly from the mills and bushmen. Mid-1960s to the late 1970s player numbers were coming from farm workers. Though I moved to Rotorua in 1969 I played with the club until 1974. A change of grading in the early 1980s saw the club drop from first division to second, then down to third. Player numbers had dropped off with a mill closure and private settlement of farms. Two of the local farmers who helped keep the club going through these years were Malcolm Gredig and Jim Frost with Beau giving a hand in coaching.

Another Albert, nephew John is going into the mode of importing players from as far away as England. Though it has met with some opposition it has kept the club alive, last season being promoted from third division to second and then to first division for 1992.

The only disappointment is that games are now played in Mangakino with that as the home ground.

Family donated trophies are the Rata Cup, the Beckett Shield and the Brown Shield donated by the Cairns family.



Tihoi Rugby Team 1968.

Back row from left: F. Carlton (delegate), J. Scott, G. Albert, A. Scott, C. Tohu, D. Rewiti, G. Apiti, B. Albert, M. Rata, M. English, R. Whare (chairman).

Front row: W. Meyer (sec/treas.), D. Whetu, J. Albert, M. Galvin, E. Albert, R. Bedford (vice capt.), T. Albert (capt/coach/selector), K. Rotorangi, J.B. Rata, J.B. Albert, J. Winikeri, M. Heke.



*The Albert brothers, from left: Trevor, Joe, Bruce, Ernie, Eric, Boydie, Edwin (Beau).*

#### **THE ALBERT BROTHERS - Ngaire Albert**

Boydie is the oldest of a family of nine boys and five girls. He was the first of the Albert brothers to come to Tihoi arriving about 1946/47 as a single chap to work in the Tihoi Mill. Ernie followed for a period and they both remember Tihoi being a remote and desolate place. Hunting, which all the brothers enjoyed immensely, made up for all the disadvantages.

Boydie left Tihoi for about three years and returned as a married man in the mid 1950s. He worked on the newly developed Lands and Survey farms at Atiamuri, Tirohanga and the Tihoi Block. Trevor started work at Mokai followed by Bruce and then Beau working on Waihaha Block, and so the saga continued until there were seven Albert brothers working with the Tihoi/Mokai District.

The Alberts made their biggest contribution and impressions to Tihoi with Rugby. They were for many years the back-bone of a very strong Tihoi Rugby team. A unique feature would have to be six brothers playing for one team at one time - Boydie, Joe, Trevor, Beau, Bruce and George. Bruce was a brilliant second five or centre and played one season for Hawkes Bay including the 1968 southern tour. The others all played representative rugby for Taupo. Boydie must be one of the longest playing footballers in Tihoi Rugby, having played when he first arrived in Tihoi and continuing when he returned again until he reached the good old age of fifty plus in the 1970s.

Trevor coached for several years and under his strict coaching and discipline Tihoi remained a very strong and fast playing team, winning many trophies and shields. Boydie, Bruce and Beau all coached and today Tihoi Rugby still has Albert involvement with Boydie and his family.

The Alberts have all left Tihoi now, with Beau being the last to leave in 1990, but for years they made that special trip back, some travelling from as far as Kaikohe and Kerikeri to take part in the end of season Past versus Present match.

Hunting still brings the Alberts back to Tihoi today and so long as there is hunting in Tihoi this will continue.



*Tihoi versus Taupo. Trevor tackles H. Whetu supported by Beau.*

## PLAYING RUGBY FOR TIHOI - Matangi Hepi

I played rugby for Tihoi for a number of years in the 1950s when Mangakino had its own sub-union. There were some very good players and good 'triers'.

One game I will always remember was against Maraetai at Mangakino. Tihoi had a young team with fullback Boydie Rata playing his first club game. What a game he played for a 16 year old. Although we lost by 10-12 it was a game to be talked about for months afterwards. I suspect the referee was responsible for our loss.

What else would one think when the referee was wearing a jersey sporting a monogram 'Maraetai Rugby Club'. When I moved to Mangakino and travel back to Tihoi I'd generally find the team at the Club still boozing and yet ready to take to the field and do battle. The strange thing is that they usually won the game!

Football was played on the field near the old club before the present field was established. The game was continually stopped while the ball was being fetched out of the stream. - Boydie Rata

I remember travelling to rugby on the back of the timber truck driven by Bob Beckett, and it was laden with beer. If it was a game against Mokai the losers always 'shouted' the winners. We would leave to go back to Tihoi late at night and on the way home we sometimes stopped along - side the road, lit a fire and drank the rest of our beer. - Frank Rivers

## TIHOI STAGS - Jim Frost

The Golden Oldies of rugby formed a team in 1988 and played Kuratau and Tihoi, seniors wearing an old set of jerseys from the Tihoi Rugby Club.

The following year 35 players agreed on new jerseys, socks and shorts in gold and black, the same as the Club. The 'Tihoi Stags' name was chosen from the key-rings and spoons featuring stags heads, held at the Tihoi Trading Post.

During the season the team plays regularly entering Golden Oldie Tournaments in the Waikato and Bay of Plenty and twice a team has entered the 'Around the Mountain' run.

In 1991 eleven men and ten women from the Tihoi Stags and Mangakino Eels had a great trip to Perth where they entered the Golden Oldies Festival.

The Tihoi Stags sponsor the local Primary Schools five teams From five to thirteen year olds from Marotiri, Tihoi, Tirohanga and Mokai Schools.



Tihoi Stags Rugby Team 1987

## TIHOI LADIES NETBALL - Ngaire Albert

'Tihoi is a man's paradise with hunting on the doorstep, a successful rugby team and a social club high in entertainment'. It was these words that spurred me into thinking, 'why not a netball team?' as there were certainly plenty of local women in Tihoi.

With the advice and encouragement from School-teacher Claire Phillips, the first Tihoi Netball team was registered with the Taupo Netball Association in 1972. We kept the Tihoi traditional colours of black and gold by making ourselves black skirts and obtaining gold T-Shirts through Mrs Molly Burgess at the Tihoi Trading Post. I remember our first team consisting of myself, Christine Cassidy, Towai Cairns, Linda Rika, Moana Harmer, Jo-Ann Hepi, and Maraera Henare.

We had a very successful first year in the competition making the 'A' Grade and having three players make Taupo Reps.

More success followed and in 1973 we won the 'A' Grade Currie Shield as well as the Points Cup, Chris Cassidy was chosen for the South Waikato Rep Squad, and five of us were successful in making the Taupo Reps, receiving rep pins that year.



Tihoi Netball Team 1973  
Back row from left: L. Stuart, C. Cassidy (coach/player),  
L. Rika, M. Lewis.  
Front row: B.T. Cairns, N. Albert (capt), J. Hepi.

The once-a-week practice on the Tihoi Tennis Court was difficult as the surface was well-worn asphalt. We persevered for three years then practiced on the Mokai School Netball Courts as some of our players lived at Mokai. I recall our toddlers following us around the footy field when we went for our runs. Nine energetic mothers racing ahead out in front and half a dozen screaming little toddlers giving us the chase.

The Tihoi dress jersey came into fashion from our team in 1974. The bitterly cold southerlies that whipped across the Taupo Netball Courts was almost unbearable, so the idea of a Dress jersey to wear while playing was welcomed by the team. At that time we did not have initials or the name 'Tihoi' knitted on them. I ended up knitting most of them for the team. The idea caught on very quickly and this has since become Tihoi's dress jersey.

For finance to improve the Tihoi netball courts, cakes and sandwiches were sold at the local rugby games. This was very successful but it meant preparation and delivery to the Club before rushing off to Taupo for our game. Finally the first concrete was poured in 1974 under the supervision of Jock McCabe.

Financial help came from Western Bays Citizen Club, PTY, and the School. Working bees continued until the money ran low and the final stages of the court were not completed.

In 1976 Tihoi fielded a second team of College girls. The team included the Cairns sisters, Joseph, Boreham and Albert girls, coached by Dot Boreham and Hau Albert. During the year a new pavilion was built at the Taupo Netball Courts and our Tihoi Netball Club was proud to donate some lengths of Rimu for the interior. This pavilion is now situated at Owen Delaney Park.

I captained the team for four years when Chris Cassidy took over. She also did a splendid job coaching the team for some years. Sadly like many things Tihoi Netball came to an end in 1978 with many of our loyal players moving on. Chris Cassidy, Linda Rika, Towai Cairns and I stayed with the team always. Lorenza Stuart, Agnes Latima, June Roberts, Lil Rotorangi, Jo McNae joined in later years.

I will always be thankful to the ladies who gave me their full support during those years of Netball.



Tihoi College Team 1976.

Back row from left: V. Albert, L. Joseph, W. Albert (coach), M. Joseph, M. Boreham.

Front row: D. Hunter, T. Akurangi, A. Cairns, G. Boreham

#### TIHOI LADIES BASKETBALL - Ngaire Albert

Tihoi fielded a Ladies Basketball team in the Mangakino Basketball competition for about four years, the first team starting in 1982, organised by Joanne Hepi and Jan Neville. The team had had very little or no experience at all with basketball and practices were difficult because there were no facilities and the team made the most of the Tihoi Netball court - ex Tennis court.

Joanne, Jan and Shirley Kerr were the team's key players and all consider they did exceptionally well. Other local players who stayed with the team during the four years were June Roberts, Jovita Floyd, Harriet Cairns, Wiki Marx, Bernie Kumeroa, Susan Bowron, Jill Muriwai and I. We were coached by Craig Hunt an instructor from St. Paul's.

The teams in Mangakino were hard and tough. In fact, one of our players wore her knee pads and crash helmet while playing against one particular team!



Tihoi Women's Basketball Team 1983.

Back row from left: J. Muriwai, J. Roberts, S. Kerr, N. Albert, C. Hunt (coach/manager).

Front row: W. Marx, S. Bowron, J. Hepi (captain, winner points cup), J. Neville, J. Floyd.

Fetching water from the creek for the Tennis players. This was always the kids job.

- Teri Paerata

#### WATCHING THE POUNDS (WEIGHT) - Ngaire Albert

OWN UP! Who has the plastic piggy

Weigh-in time for the local women was during their Monday get-together at the club. Each woman brought a piece of fruit and the lass who had lost the most was rewarded with all the fruit. But she who had gained the most had the embarrassing task of taking home the plastic piggy.

Oh dear! If you were that unfortunate person it was probably wiser to stay home and hide the rest of the week, for the men certainly knew how to make fun and make mountains out of mole-hills. During Monday mornings while working at the sawmills their questions to each other were, 'who do you think will get the pig?' During the afternoon the conversation changed to 'guess who got the pig'. Most times it remained the height of conversation for the rest of the afternoon.

One piggy winner went to the club for a game of pool but was continuously harassed with peculiar noises - something that sounded like 'oink oink'.

Watching the pounds did not last long but while it did, it created a lot of interest spiced with much humour which kept the sleepy little town in high spirits.



## MEMORIES IN VARIETY - THE PEOPLE, THE HUNTING, THE ARMY CAMP.

### HUNTING - Pat Gannon.

Wild pigs and brumbies were abundant in the Tihoi area and we'd take four to six weeks off and ride from Bennymdale to Kakaho on a hunting expedition. We were always well prepared with young freshly-shod horses and plenty of tucker to last the journey as it took up to two weeks to reach our destination.

The trip from Bennymdale was via the 'Old Taupo Track' and across to Taparoa on the western slopes of Titirau-penga where we'd camp a night or two then ride down to the Mangakino River and spend a night at Watson's Camp. This was named after a Ranger Watson. From here we followed the river up, cross at 'Taiwha Crossing' and head to the Tutukau Mill. Near there we crossed a bridge and then on to the Kakaho Pa. We camped near-by at 'Le Long's Camp' where Mr Le Long once had a post splitters camp. I remember a huge cherry grove, lots of raspberries and fruit trees at the back of the Pa site. There was a beautiful swimming pool nearby.

Sometimes we travelled over to Mokai for more food supplies but we followed an old track put in by a Mr Joe Huru.

People were always riding in and out of the area, either passing through or hunting and chasing brumbies. It was not uncommon for people to come over the ranges from Waimiha or Taumarunui to Kakaho or Opa.

There were always big mobs of wild horses down at Waihora Bay. These brumbies were escapees from the Armed Constabulary camps in the 1860s. One day I rode down to the bay with Karu Tatana and John Wereta. We followed the Waihora River Track down past the Waihaha Mill site and I remember parts of the track being very steep down through rock facings. John and Karu rode their horses down but I dismounted and led my horse until I thought it was safe to mount again. You could see where the early Maoris had a Ti-tree rail so nobody would slip and fall. Along the track more cherry trees grew. Cherries were plentiful then with no birds to eat them. On our arrival at Waihora Bay we'd set up horse snares and camp nearby. It was not unusual to find two or three horses in the snares.

On our way back to Kakaho we'd head towards the old stock yard for brumbies up near the bush. We would return to Bennymdale sometimes via Mokai, then back over to the Mangakino River, cross over and get back onto the Old Taupo Track and head home once more.

### TAME PIGS - Boydie Rata

Everyone kept a tame pig and I was no exception. In fact I think mine were tamer than most in the district. They suckled my house cow during times of hunger.

On arriving home one morning after a successful hunt, my two townie mates Rex and Ray bunked down on my lounge floor to catch up on some sleep while Rena, my wife and I went along to the children's school sports. My last words to Rex and Ray before leaving were 'don't leave the house door open'. Sleep my mates did and funny enough, both had the same dream of pigs that they could hear, loud and clear. Horrors! They both sat bolt upright and there lying between them were my three pigs, one of them a boar with large tusks. What a commotion and how amusing it must have been for these two. Tame, very tame pigs and just as well.

### CARTAGE CONTRACTORS - Ted Mason

Lloyd Franklin and Stuart Hume were early cartage contractors at Tihoi. Lloyd always drove his own truck and carried a large box in which the supplies for the settlement were carried.

Stuart Hume had two trucks and Lionel Freeman was one of his drivers.

Gordon Treweek and Jack Shaw bought out Lloyd and Stuart and they were the contractors in 1959. Later Gordon was the sole contractor because with improved roads, mechanical loading and unloading, and bigger load capacity, it was able to be done by one truck.

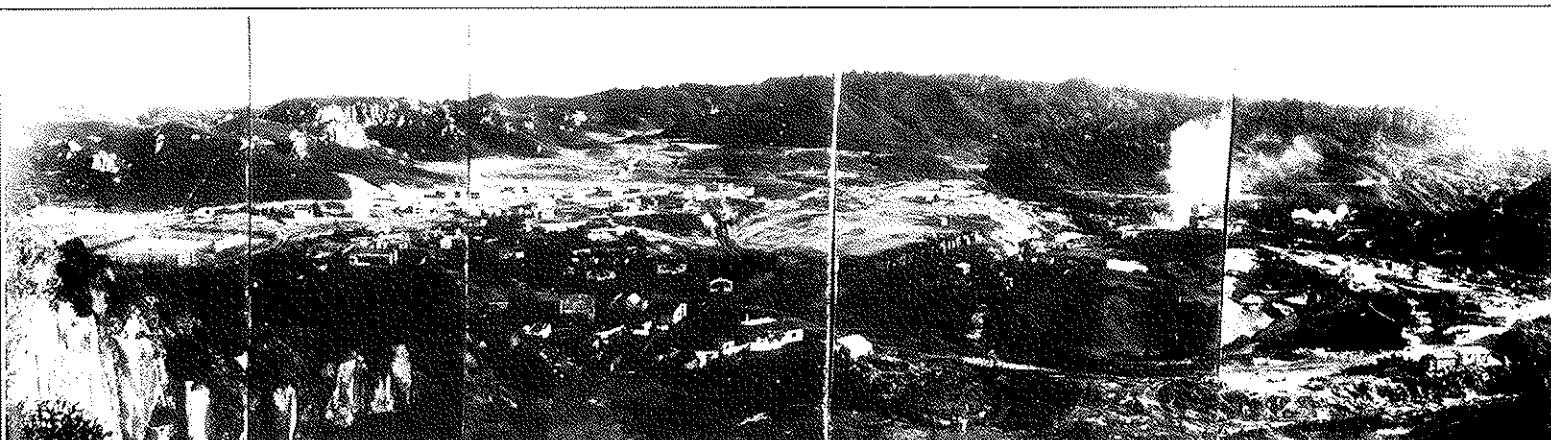
### TIHOI 1940S - Lloyd Franklin

G.C. Ranger had the contract during the war years to carry out timber for an American Army company but could not meet the delivery. I was sent out to Tihoi by the 'Manpower Centre' to deliver 12 x 12s which were being used in the Islands for making bomb shelters. It wasn't long after that when I moved to Tihoi with my family.

We lived in one of the houses near the Tennis Court. There was no power, no store, no State houses and only two or three families had a vehicle. There were telephones - at the Mill Office and at the mill manager's home and they kept us in touch with the outside world.

I was driving for Andy Hardy at the time and continued to do so delivering timber from Tihoi Mill to all parts of the country, mainly to Putaruru until I was able to buy my own truck - a three ton Ford, the first vehicle off the

*Montage of Tihoi taken from Tutakamoana 1951*



boat after the war. I paid about two thousand pounds for it. I applied for my own licence to operate a 'Carrying Business' and continued working for Western Bay Timber Company.

Sometimes I was away for up to eighteen hours or more arriving back late at night and leaving again early in the morning. Many times I had to hang around Putaruru all day waiting for a back load. The only road out of Tihoi was by way of Mokai and then down River Road to Atiamuri. There was no road to Mangakino until the mid fifties. The road to Mokai was 23 miles of mud and slush and took at least 2-3 hours driving.

Because I had the only vehicle going regularly in and out of Tihoi, this was the only means of bringing in goods for the mill and village people. I did the shopping in Putaruru and on many occasions I did other errands for the folk, buying items ranging from clothing to baby dummies. If I arrived back late the Canadian 'White' mill truck came to meet me. We unloaded all the groceries and meat into a big open six feet square box at the bottom of the hill before the Cook-house and hall - this was the pickup spot. From time to time tobacco and other essentials were sold from the village hall.

During this period the King Country was one of the few Dry areas. I was the only person given permission from the police to buy beer but the order had to be placed beforehand with the money and name of each person. The order was with the Putaruru Hotel. It was allowed to be brought back to Tihoi on a Friday evening only. Sometimes I brought back as much as 170 dozen cartons of beer.

The Mill Office included a little Post Office and was run by Monty Montgomery. He lived at the office which was divided into two rooms with a little porch at the entrance. Some of the houses were transported there in sections by Stuart Hume and Cliff Hay was employed as carpenter to assemble and finish them.

The winter months in Tihoi were very severe and raw with frosts hard and continuous. On my trips to Putaruru I remember icicles hanging from the banks and remaining there for several weeks. We always had one snowfall during this season and sometimes a foot deep.

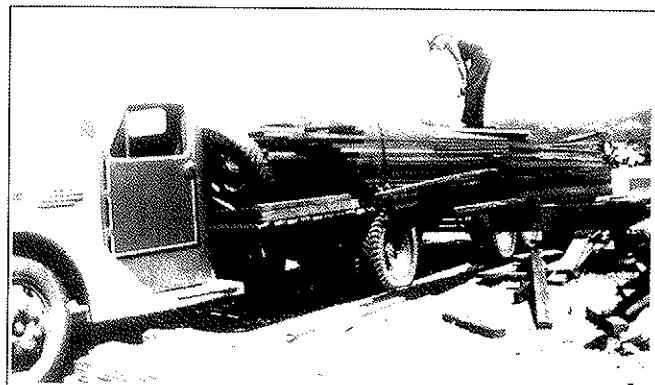
It was a hard and isolated life for the families but everyone worked together and made up their own fun to make life more pleasant. Our family shifted from Tihoi to Putaruru in the mid fifties when our children were ready to start college.

#### TIMBER TRANSPORT - Ted Mason

During the war and into the early 1950s most of the timber leaving Tihoi was loaded onto the railway at Putaruru and went to Auckland. At first the timber trucks were normally 6 wheelers because anything bigger could not get through the road in adverse conditions, but 'artics' were in use by 1948.

The driver loaded the timber by hand, normally unaided, and that required a certain skill to ensure the load did not roll while in transit. On arrival at Putaruru, if there was a rail wagon available, he would then unload by hand into the wagon. If there was no wagon available he would have to wait until one arrived. The station master or inspector would inspect the loaded wagon to see if it met New Zealand Railways regulations. If it didn't the wagon might have to be reloaded. Since it normally took between one to two hours to load a wagon, that mistake was not likely to recur!

Those were the days when it was illegal to transport anything by road in competition with the railways without a permit, and they had to agree to the permit.



*Loading the timber*

#### MOVIES - Hilton Burgess

The first movies seen in Tihoi were brought in from Taupo by Joss Skeen, but not very often. He used a generating plant on a trailer to power his projector.

Movies on a regular basis began in 1956 and they were the brain child of Leo Quinlan. A 16mm Bell & Howell projector was purchased and admission money paid the cost - 2/6 for adults and 1/- for children. Proceeds after the purchase price was to benefit the school.

Mac McClardy ran the projector as he was an experienced operator. Eventually Chris Burgess carried on this job and films were shown in the local hall on Thursday nights. Thursday was a special day for children as comics arrived then also!

The advent of television in the 1960s caused the demise of the cinema social nights.

#### SOME EARLY MEMORIES OF TIHOI - 1940's

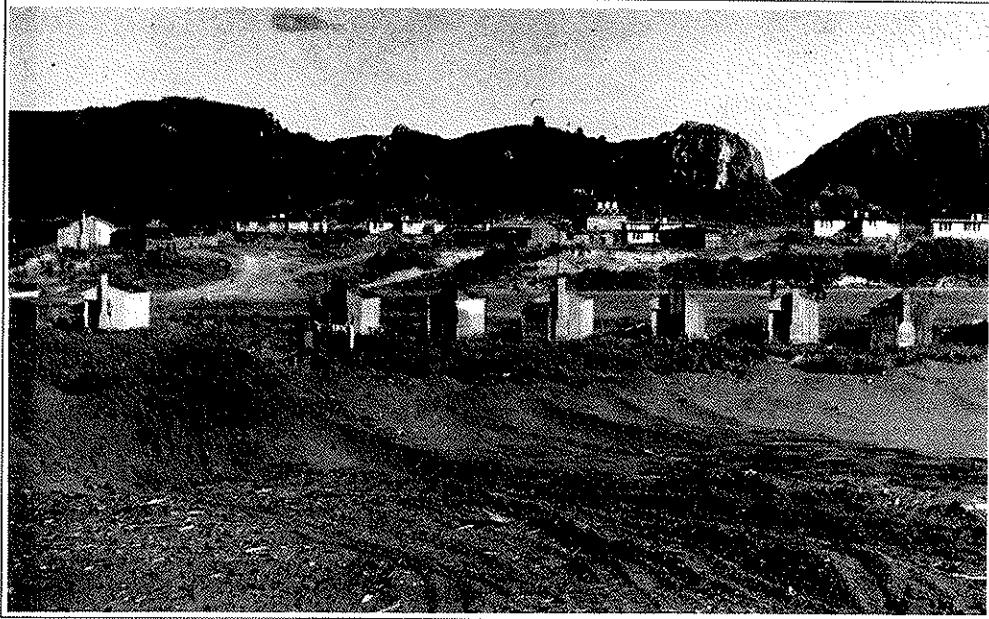
- Teri Paerata

My parents Ronga and Rita Paerata shifted from Mokai to Tihoi in the early 1940's with their whanau Bubbles, Boy, Lani, Teri [myself], Thia, Harold, Annie and Ronnie. My father worked in the mill.

Mr Williams was teacher and the school was an old converted one-room house with no toilet and there was no playground. Primer one to standard six were together and primers could make up numbers for rugby teams. A trip was made once a year by taxi to the dental clinic in Taupo, the cure for car sickness on the rough pumice road being chewing-gum and smelling mints. The big highlight of the year was the Christmas breakup when all the community was involved with a hangi and Santa arrived in style with presents, on a timber truck.

Later we moved to the village hall at the end of the football field and this was still in use when we left in 1949. With no power we used candles in early evenings, the Dad would light the mantel lamp later. We organised our own leisure with horse riding, picnic lunch in the bush, climbing Tutakamoana and visiting the cave on the Burgess farm. The picnics were a family affair and we frequently went to Whanganui Bay.

We moved to Eltham in 1949 and travelled to Putaruru by taxi which took two trips with our large family. Ernest and Lily were born there.



One of my fondest memories of the old days is waiting for the timber truck to come from Putaruru with our meat and bread. We would sit up until 11 or 12pm some nights, then go to bed and get up early the next morning and go down to the box. Then we'd find the dogs had been eating our meat supplies and left only the newspaper wrappings.

- Iris Gunderson

Tihoi village with singlemen's huts in the foreground 1948.



Preparing a hangi by Tihoi Hall

## RANGI AND PAIAHUA RATA

- From Two Daughters - Julie Stevens..

There were 15 children in our family. Julie (myself), Jerry, John, Colin, Jack, Jim, Fanny, Maraea, Maylie (1st deceased), Maylie, Susan, Kuini, Ada, Mary and Yvonne. In 1938 Rangi (Nanor) first went to Tihoi, then known as Opa, with the four children Julie, John, Colin, and Fanny. Fanny was the cook while Rangi and the rest went post splitting about a quarter of a mile away from where the mill was later situated. Ma Maxwell used to pick up all the posts with her horse and sledge and take them to the depot just over the mill bridge.

Nanor started the rugby team and with help of his family and other families around they prepared the grounds for the rugby field. Families there were the Hodges, Tatana, Burgess, Hohepa, Rangi and few others. Rangi helped build the road from the mill to about a mile past the

Trading Post, later moving to Mokai where he worked with timber.

In 1941 he moved back to Tihoi with his wife and family, Fanny in the meantime having died at Mokai. Mary and I had gone back to the homestead in Mangamuka and I by then had married Heta Stevens. Maraea started teaching at the school for one year. In 1946 the tennis courts were built and basketball started also that year.

Paiahua (nana) left Tihoi and moved to Putaruru to live, then Heta and I took over the house and whanau until they left for Waihaha in 1951.

Nanor introduced the John Rata Cup in 1948 for the first challenge which was Taupo. It was a memorium for his son who had been killed in the Tatua bush a year before. Rugby was one of the greatest loves of Nanor - he coached his boys to win and I believe they were not beaten for many years.

Nanor left Tihoi to join Nana in Putaruru and she died in 1957 aged 61 years. He worked for Putaruru Timber Yard until he retired in 1961. Nanor passed on in 1981 aged 86 years.

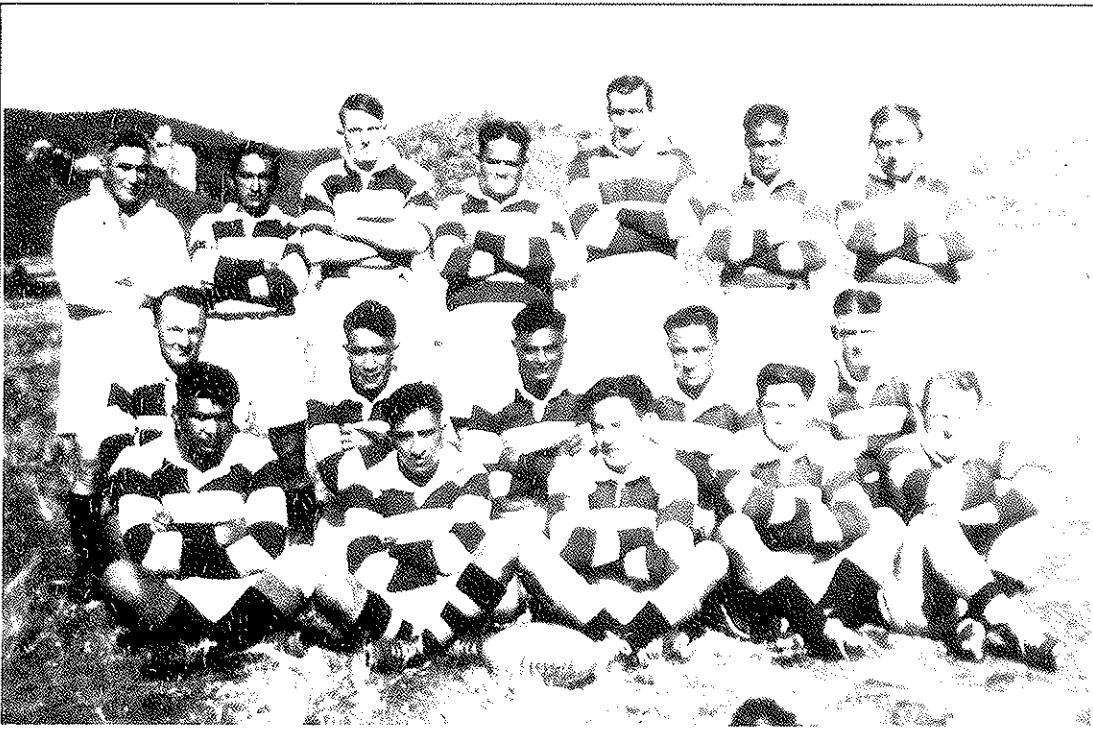
...and Ada Ransfield. Dad and the boys were post-splitting at the back of Karu Tatana's place and the posts were hauled out on a sledge pulled by horses. They later worked at the mill and Dad formed the first rugby team in 1938. It was called 'Opa'. It was much later that the Tihoi Rugby Team was formed and Dad was coach and referee. His team had four brothers in it and the fifth brother John played for Mokai. Whenever Tihoi and Mokai played against each other there were five brothers on the field and as they were all keen players I think Dad delighted in seeing them playing all at once.

Much later our basketball team was also formed and that consisted of five sisters. Julia, Maraea, Queenie, Maisie and I (at 10 years old), sisters-in-law Neata and Lena Rata and cousin Evelyn Noble. Our mode of transport was on the back of Dad's Ford truck fitted with a canopy. Trying to sit comfortably in the back of the truck was almost impossible with both the football and the basketball teams and some spectators.

Our most avid fans were our Mother and Bob Beckett. These trips were at times very trying because it seemed ages before we reached our destination and by then everyone had the cramps.

Our first home in Tihoi were baches that were next to Turei Hohepa up on the hill. Then we moved to the house that was built for us down on the flat. Mummy was very pleased with the new house and she loved it. The first people we met were the Turei and Tatana families. There were a lot of Turei kids so we weren't short of playmates. When the school was built on the flat in front of the present school it consisted of one room and my sister Maraea was the teacher. Every morning a pupil was asked to give a morning talk and one morning Joe Rivers spoke about a film he had seen the previous night. The film must have been possibly two hours long because that's how long it took Joey to tell it. By that time some of the kids had fallen asleep and the lessons were late in getting started. Needless to say he was never asked again. We had another teacher who always made us sing the Welsh National Anthem. Every morning the whole school would be singing 'Wales, Wales', just so we could get an apple for playtime.

Another thing the kids loved doing was going on hikes. Turei Hohepa and a whole bunch would leave early with our lunch on our backs packed in sugar bags and we



Tihoi Rugby Team 1947.

Back row from left: Rangi Rata (coach, referee, manager), A. Ponga, T. McHugh, S. Whare, R. Knapp, F. Rivers, M. Marsh.

Middle row: R. Sinclair, J. Rata, B. Henry, J. Rata, ?

Front row: A. Whare, C. Rata, B. Rangi, W. Keremete, L. Freeman.

would go hiking to Waihora, Lake Taupo. Once there we would go swimming and pick cherries and bring them home in our tins. Mummy would make jam with them. It was a long way on foot and we had to make sure that everyone was together. It was great fun.

Because it was during the war things were rationed and everyone was issued with a ration book. Whenever we went to Molly Burgess' shop we would take our ration books and cut out coupons for items we bought. Everything in Molly's shop was behind the counter. Probably so we didn't take anything.

I used to love taking the men's smoko to the mill especially Toby Drummond's because his wife Sue always made cakes for him. I never liked taking the brothers their smokos. There were a lot of them so the tea was made in a billy and taken to the mill. It was too heavy to carry - besides, their smoko was either fry-bread or slabby (a flat damper of scone dough) and we had that all the time.

Maraea, Queenie and Maisie later worked in the mill. Maraea was on the goose, Queenie drove the slab truck where she just sat in the truck and waited for it to fill and then she would cart it away. Maisie ran the timber out to the yard and stacked it onto the appropriate skids.

Our local dances were a scream. They were held in the local hall with Queenie as pianist and Doc on the steel guitar and whoever else could play any instrument was roped in to play. It was really quite an event.

The highlights of the year I suppose in any child's life are picnics and Christmas presents. We always looked forward to Christmas presents because being in the bush you don't get to see nice things. Our presents were clothes that Mum would go to Putaruru to buy. Although it wasn't what you would like you still appreciated it.

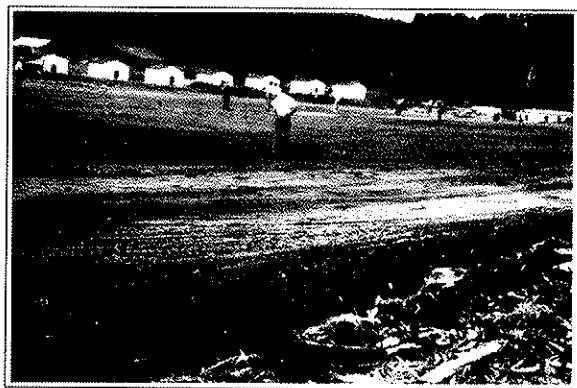
## TIHOI - 1940s AS I REMEMBER - Boydie Rata

Fun in those early days was catching the old horses, riding bare-back with rope bridles and galloping behind the old shop to chase brumbies. They were abundant around the tussock plains and close to the village. Sometimes if we were lucky we'd get alongside a young pony, jump on its back and rope it. Most times we landed with a thump on the ground.

Very few people had vehicles and families travelled on the back of a truck covered by a canopy or tarpaulin. Families became close learning to share and make their own entertainment. Early evenings they'd gather to play rounders or long-ball. Nights could be spent indoors around the piano or with a sing-along to a guitar or ukulele.

Every child had daily chores. I remember walking to the stream for buckets of water. We had a copper outside for boiling water and sometimes it meant five or more trips to fill it. Usually water drained off the roof into tanks which was alright in winter but not in summer.

Those days were tough but enjoyable.



Local Domain 1948

## DOUG AND CIS HAY

- From their daughter Leola Sharp

Doug Hay moved to Tihi in 1941 leaving his family in Oruanui but occasionally he would walk back to see his family and arrive at midnight. At Tihi he worked for Jim Mason and started cross-cutting before actually working at the mill.

Some months later he shifted his family to Tihi where they stayed in an old shack without running water; a year later they moved into a mill house.

When Bob Beckett became mill manager in 1943 Doug carried out saw-doctoring and acted as foreman until 1955. He then moved to start work post contracting.

He shifted to Taupo 1970/71 and at 83 years and despite a stroke, is likely to be found up a ladder pruning or vegetable gardening. He has planted native trees around his section, a reminder of part of his Tihi life.

In Doug's own words... 'The timber truck used to bring our groceries in once a week from Putaruru. We would place our orders one week and receive them the following week'.

Also.. 'Kiwis were frequent visitors to the village. They seemed to appear when certain parts of the bush were felled. On the bush roads they were a common sight'.

Cis Hay spent 27 years at Tihi and in the surrounding district and recalls early days at Tihi taking an active part in tennis and hockey. She recalls travelling to Wairoa to compete and has a sad memory of the hockey team travelling to Mokai on a logging truck and the opponents not appearing.

Housie and card tournaments always drew a crowd and there were wonderful social events. Taking washing down to the river or boiling in the copper may have had its drawbacks especially in the winter; but it was compensated by the warmth and friendliness of the local people.



Jack Parora, Doug and Allen Hay



Tihi Hockey Team 1955

Back row from left: M. Rivers, I. Bethall, B. Whare, C. Otihi, ?, P. Rehu, M. Deane.

Middle row: R. Beckett, Q. Martin, M. Deane, B. Hepi.

Front row: C. Hay.

## THE TIHOI CLUB - Jock McCabe

In the 1950's few people except personnel from the army camp and possibly a few hunters knew of the existence of the Tihoi Club.

The army moved out about 1960 but changes occurred bringing more support for the club. The development of scrub into grazing country brought a large labour force and electric power and roading brought more, so that the club was bursting at the seams. An extension of about 1,000 square feet was made and the social hall was placed beside it so that all social events were held in the one centre.

Apart from several local weddings most of the main celebrations were sporting after-match functions.

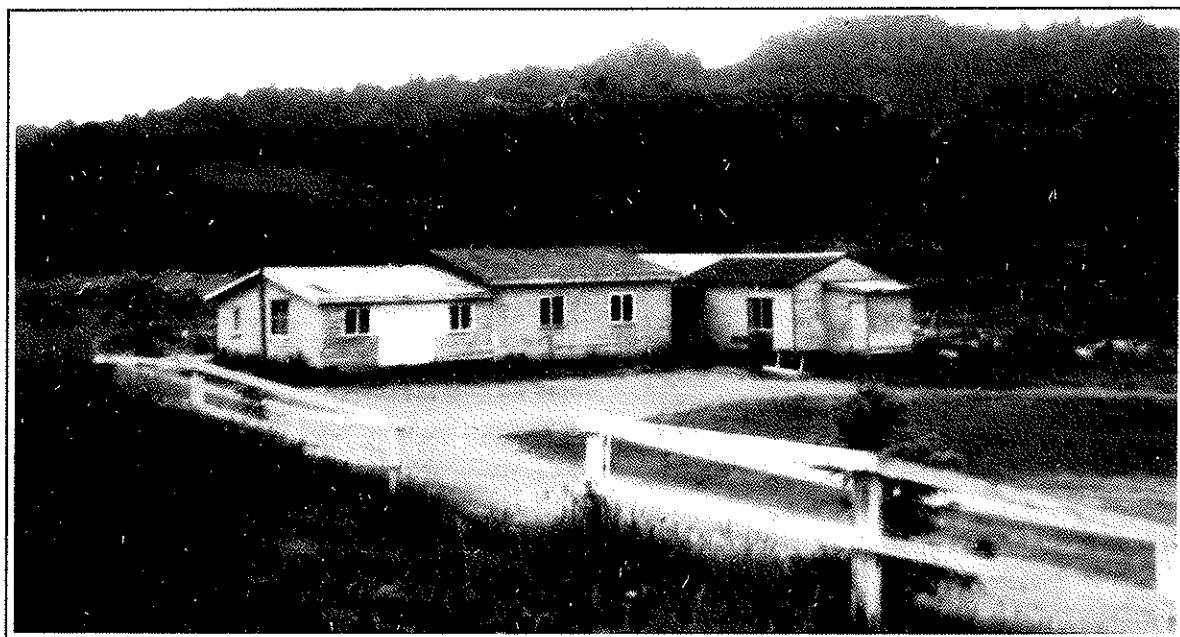
While the club provided social and recreation facilities for the local people it became a haven for deerstalkers and

during the 'roar' strangers from all parts of the country found their way to the village, spending a large part of the season in front of a big roaring fire.

George Wilder even lent support to the club although he was never present himself. David Northcroft spent a couple of hours there.

Head hunters and meat hunters provided endless stories. The words of Robby Burns came to mind on some occasions, "The night drew on wi' sang and clatter" - especially the "clatter". Depending on the clientele, at times hobnail harmony became the main feature of the night until the performers went home or fell asleep.

Memories are all that are left now and there remains only the building that serves as a dining hall for the St. Paul's Collegiate Venture School.



Tihoi Club 1971

## TIHOI CAMP -

Richard Taylor, Captain, Research Officer, Queen Elizabeth II Army Memorial Museum and Military Studies Centre, Waiouru.

In 1949 Compulsory Military Training [CMT] was introduced to New Zealand. It quickly became clear that the Second World War mobilisation camps [Papakura, Hopu Hopu, Trentham and Burnham] and major training centre at Waiouru would be unable to handle the large unit camps which would be required as a result of Compulsory Military Training.

The Tihoi camp was a result of the demands of Compulsory Military Training. Located near a timber mill, Tihoi provided a mixture of flat and hilly terrain. All the Territorial Force units in the Brigade area [roughly, the top half of the North Island] used the camp at various times. The Brigade centred around three infantry battalions; the

Northland and Auckland Battalions [now amalgamated] and the Hauraki Battalion.

Army Engineers erected cookhouses, ablution blocks, and stores buildings at Tihoi. The camp proper was located in the centre of the training area and was surrounded by a wide natural 'ditch'. Far from the distraction of town life, the soldiers were able to dedicate all their energy to training.

With the change from Compulsory Military Training to National Service in the early 1960's the reserve element of New Zealand's Army declined in size quite significantly. Smaller camps such as Tihoi quickly became uneconomic to maintain, particularly as Waiouru Camp and its training area were being rapidly developed. By the mid-1960's most of the major field exercises were being conducted in either Waiouru or Tekapo, in the South Island.

Although Tihoi Camp is no longer used it retains its place in history as part of New Zealand's military response to the Cold War.



*Army convoy passes through Tihoi*

#### **EARLY MEMORIES 1950'S - Matangi Hepi**

I was discharged from the Army on medical grounds in 1953 and moved back to Tihoi with my wife Mavis. The first morning at Tihoi mill village Mavis heard the mill whistle and said matter of factly 'the train is passing through'. Soon we became involved in sports and I had never seen so many tennis players, especially women; Cis Hay, Poppy Rehu, Ludey Quinlan, Rose Beckett, Huia Martin and Ngapera Hepi (Morgan). Other sport took second place to rugby though; Tom (Hori) Deane and Neil Rickett were playing good rugby then.

I worked with the State Hydro Department so moved to the camp at Waihora near the Waihaha mill. The boss was Lani Metekingi and Snow Ham was second in command. The cook was Alice Anderson and her husband Eric was "Jack of all trades". Some others there were Sam Smith, Arthur Grace, Rahu and Lance Maxwell, Jim Hiku and George Henry. We were responsible for setting up pylons from the Waihaha River crossing to the junction of the Matai Gorge and Waimanoa Road. During this time the Royal New Zealand Engineers from Papakura Military Camp began construction of the Army Camp at Tihoi.

The Waihaha Camp was a miserable place. In winter it was cold, so cold and in summer it was extremely hot and dry. Every hut had its own little 'hot dog' like a miniature pot belly stove. It was made of very thin metal and with a little heat would turn red hot, making it a very dangerous heating device.

People I remember are:- Reg Whare 'He tangata rangimarie' and yet a person of immense strength; Doc Martin was physically strong and played good rugby with brutal strength and in the social match "Come and Get It Cup" for retired players he performed as if for the Bledisloe Cup.

Ron Beckett, a staunch Tihoi rugby player and supporter, enjoyed Tihoi and was involved in so many activities; Tonga Wolfram, the only Pacific Islander worked at Tihoi and also played rugby; Howard Nairn and his wife Muriel were another couple who lived there. Charlie and Stick Ratana, with Charlie known for the 'Toroi' that he could eat - the stronger it was, the better it tasted he thought.

Allan Scott and Jack Lopdell of the local constabulary and their wives looked forward to events at Tihoi because they were assured of a good time.

No matter where one goes someone has heard of Tihoi. I think it has made its name with the generosity of the people, its footy team, the colourful characters, the two mills and the nearby hydro and army camp. Now the Venture School will ensure Tihoi will be with us in years to come.

\* Muscles preserved with puha - Ed.



*Polly Hepi and Cis Hay watching rugby.*

## THE LINE MEN - Hilton Burgess

In the early years the road and telephone line which were private had to be maintained by the mills.

When the telephone line broke down people who had a phone took turns with the repairs and there were miles of lines to maintain, way down to the Whakamaru area.

I remember going on these maintenance trips with Chris Burgess around 40 years ago. He didn't use a ladder but he slung a field phone over his shoulder and scaled up the telephone poles like a monkey. He connected the field phone to the wires and rang back to Tihoi to see if the break was in that stretch of line. Sometimes it could take all day to find the break, scaling a number of poles in the same way, along fifteen miles or so line.

Sometimes the line would get slack over a low ridge and wild horses would gallop into it dragging it down and out into the scrub. We even had a new settlement farmer down near Whakamaru who decided it was a disused line and took down along stretch of it, probably hoping to cash it in with the copper buyer. The bush telegraph soon found out who it was, and he was dealt with.

what trouble. Eventually we got what we went for plus a new school to go with the road. Not a bad effort. Congratulations to the staff of Len Cannon and Helen and to Niki Albert whose co-operation was first class. What a great period in history.

The Tihoi Club. Oh, what great functions they had. All weekend jobs. Remember the great fireplace. Put another log on the fire. Remember the local characters Westy, Henery, Reg, Jock, Harry, I could name heaps. Great memories which will live for ever.

Tihoi rugby. Last but not least. The great times. The great mates. What a great and proud team for that time period. No 'bring-ins' just Tihoi and Mokai lads.

But eventually all great things come to an end. Putaruru Timber Yard finished logging, the native timber, the old Tihoi road with its wooden bridges and never ending pumice dust was superseded with a posh major highway, the Trading Post was resited on the new highway, the old mill housing area was restored to become an outward bound complex, the old Tihoi Club building is now the cookhouse and messroom for the outward bound.

But if you wander through the village today enough is left for the old-timers to think back and tell tall stories to their grandchildren.

Without doubt a great ten years. Then in 1968 it was all over.

## TIHOI - THE VILLAGE IN THE MIST 1958 - 1968

- Lil and Tony Nixon

In summer of 1958 Tony and Lil with their two sons Wayne and Mark arrived with their worldly possessions on a small truck from Te Awamutu to spend the next ten years in the district.

Oh, what a ten years it was. We first set up house in two army huts on Lands and Survey Tihoi while our new house was being built by Dooley Mullins, Bill and Lil Heta and company. Then our introduction to the Tihoi village and its residents. Oh, what friends we made. Strong friendships remain to this day. Eventually the family was increased to three with a lovely daughter. In the ensuing years all children attended the Tihoi School. What a shop and meeting place. Chris and Mollie if required would supply everything from needles to washing machines, what wonderful people. The hitching rail outside the shop - real Western style.

Tihoi School. What history. If you did not have a desk close to the little pot belly stove you shivered in 4-6 degrees of frost at the back of the class. What a privilege it was to be involved with a hard headed lot on the School Committee with Gordon Rutherford guiding from the chairman's seat. Taking on Government departments - for an all-weather road for the safety of the bus pupils. Oh,



Entertainment at Clubhouse. D. TeTomo



## HOW ST. PAUL'S CAME TO FIND TIHOI

Tony Hart, Former Principal of St. Paul's Collegiate School

St. Paul's looked for a long time to find a suitable place for a Venture School. We were offered a site at Raglan and another near Waitomo - both very interesting but it was when two board members saw a short T.V. news item on the sale of the Western Bays Timber mill at Tihoi and the empty houses there - and a few shots of the surrounding country - that's when we got interested. We visited Tihoi ourselves and we all felt that at last this was the spot. The Burgess family were most friendly and showed us the place. We decided to buy.

There was a good deal to be done in the way of repairs and maintenance - a new kitchen (to cook for about 60 boys) classrooms to build, windows to repair and drains to check. For a very cold week in the August holidays I went down with a party of volunteer seniors to dig up all the drains and septic tanks so they could be inspected. We had plenty of ideas and many ambitions but not that much money - and building inspectors and the like were not really as happy with our economical plans as we were.

There was apprehension about St. Paul's coming to Tihoi from the local community. Many things had to be ironed out, but all was resolved at a public meeting held in Tihoi Club Rooms. I'd like to think it was from here that a happy relationship started with the Tihoi community. We got a great deal of help from the community - from dining room tables and benches made at Mr Gordon Rutherford's mill to the wonderful group of farm wives who laid indeed still lay on - a midday meal that sets a fella up for 24 hours.

Mike and Judy Shaw really set St. Paul's going. At one stage they had to work so hard I thought they would burn them selves out. They are the ones that laid the drains, repaired the windows, installed the dining hall and classroom in the rush before school opened.

In concluding may I say that I still feel a flash of delight as I round the bend and see Tihoi Village suddenly appear, with those bush clad bluffs and the cluster houses. What a wonderful spot.

## ST. PAUL'S VENTURE SCHOOL AND TIHOI

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

Michael Lawrence, Principal St. Paul's Collegiate School.

The establishment of the Venture School at Tihoi in 1979 was the beginning of a partnership with the Tihoi Primary School. The bond between the two institutions must be unique in New Zealand, particularly as the Primary School lies on part of the property purchased by the St. Paul's Trustees. The partnership has grown into a lasting one because successive Directors and Principals of the Venture School and the Tihoi Primary School respectively, have established firm friendships on both a personal and a professional level. What a pity that the example set in the relationship between the two schools is not mirrored in the national scene!

St. Paul's congratulates the Tihoi Primary School on reaching its Year of Jubilee and it is our hope that in spite of the vicissitudes of the economy, especially in the world of farming, our partnership will continue for many years to come. Your welcome and friendship has enriched the life of our school.

## EARLY DAYS OF TIHOI VENTURE SCHOOL

### Mike Shaw

Mr first impressions of Tihoi were daunting to say the least most of the houses needed a great deal of work done to them before they were fit for the boys. The surrounding area had obvious potential as far as the bush was concerned but the only people who really knew the bush were the local hunters and we represented a very real intrusion into their hunting territory so were not welcomed with open arms at that early stage. (It became obvious later that no one really knew the bush area well as even the maps had the rivers in the wrong place).

At the end of the third term Judy and I with Tania and little Sarah moved into the brick house and began the rather daunting task of getting the place into shape for the arrival of the boys in late January - only two months to rebuild a village. I was very thankful when Bill Holden and Cynthia arrived to join us after Christmas. Bill was so full of enthusiasm and really took to the task, nothing was too much trouble and no task was impossible.

Together we replaced window glass, walls, floors, toilets, piles, wood sheds, stoves, attached the kitchen to the hall, put in a completely new village plumbing system, repaired the septic tanks, 'landscaped' the grounds and acted as the village travel expert. All of these items have their own little stories.

**Window Glass.** There was not a house in the place that had a complete set of window glass and one house 'Nook' (being closest to the club which is now the dining hall) did not have one window with glass intact. I made the mistake of measuring a few window frames and then assumed that the rest would be the same size and square. How wrong I was - all the windows are unique and none of them was square. I had to take the router to each frame to make them fit my large supply of glass.

The kitchen (and classrooms) were built in Hamilton at the Technical Institute and trucked down by Johnstone's Removals Ltd. Before the new kitchen could be attached to the hall we had to remove two other rooms and a projection box which were attached.

The handy chainsaw came into action but no one said that the wiring system in this part of the building was entirely separate to that in the rest of the building so the power we had turned off was not the power in the wires that our chainsaw was about to cut through. The building really came to life with a shower of sparks and a melted chainsaw blade!! Fortunately Jock (who has a charmed life) was not hurt. When the building had finally been cut in two Warwick Burgess arrived with a bulldozer. We had planned to pull the rest of the building away and with a little repair turn it into a storage area that was badly needed. Part of the plan went well - the building pulled away from the rest alright but then folded up like a pack of cards.

Our water supply for the village was to be the old (very old) water tank used by the mill when it was operating. This tank was filled up by an equally old pump beside the stream which besides regularly throwing belts off continually got blocked up or found some other reason to cease functioning.

Bill and I became experts at making non return valves out of ice cream containers and odd bits and pieces. There was a problem getting the water from the tank to the village as the pipes were all rusted up and as if that was not bad enough they were too close to the surface and so froze in the winter preventing even the usual trickle from flowing in the village.

We therefore had to replace all the water system so Bill and I set to with spade, blow torch, stilsens and many

connectors and associated rolls of various sized alkathene tubing. Time was running out and we were starting to panic with only two days to go before the boys arrived. Fortunately Mr Thorrold called, promptly turned around, went home, got a trailer and hired a trench digger. Absolutely magic, the pipe just vanished into a trench that opened before it as fast as we could join it.

On the last Sunday we ran out of fittings for the alkathene but a merchant in Putaruru agreed to sort out what we wanted from his shop. He left them on top of a cistern in the men's toilet at the pub where Judy went and collected them. (Luckily it was Sunday and the pub was not doing much trade!!)

We moved Jock to his house over the bridge. He plonked all his possessions into a trailer behind the tractor, except for one old cardboard beer box which he treated as if filled with fine crystal. We were instructed to take great care of this box so Bill held it on his lap for the journey over. Disaster! We hit one of the many large pot holes and Bill fell off, box and all. The contents spilled out onto the road - six large sweaty sticks of gelignite.

We hit the Jack Pot right from the start with Shirley Sinton, Ngaire Albert and Leslie Hawkins as cooks to run the kitchen and organise supplies for the boys houses. Two are still with us today and Leslie only left after about ten years because her husband was promoted to Taupo. Thank you cooks for all you did in those early days and continue to do.

Those early days were great and I am glad we had the experience. Our eternal gratitude as always goes to the many locals who supported and helped us in the pioneering days. Without their help and encouragement we would have never made it.



Mike Shaw the first Director of the Venture School

## TIHOI VENTURE SCHOOL

Based on Information Pamphlet and complied in 1991

Under the guidance of Director Brian Neville, the Fourth Form boys of St. Paul's Collegiate School spend 18 school weeks at the Tihoi Venture School. The form is split into two groups each of about 56 boys. One remains at school to continue normal studies and school life while the other group spends its time at Tihoi. The Venture School consists of nine, three-bedroomed houses - ex mill houses, a dining-recreational block - ex Western Bays Citizen Club with kitchen attached, three class-rooms, ablution facilities, as well as a shed to house yachts, canoes and other equipment.

Accommodation is available for two married teachers, these being Brian Neville and his wife Jan and Deputy Director Mark Jones. There is also a Log Cabin that was transported to Tihoi and accommodates three instructors in 1991, Stuart McCowan, Allan Kane and Richard Dunn. Andrew Caird resides with Mark Jones. The three cooks - Shirley Sinton, Carol Robertson [taken over from Leslie Hawkins] and Ngaire Albert are local married women who travel to work daily.

A normal academic programme is followed but curricular activities centre around outdoor skills and experience. Homework is still required from the boys while at Tihoi. Learning, living together, self discipline and leadership are all the qualities that develop in the boys.

As one boy wrote in his story - 'Learning to live sums up Tihoi but if you are not prepared to put something into the Tihoi experience then little will come out. I have already learnt to survive without all the luxuries of home, including Mum who now has my sympathy after finding out how much work is involved to run a household. All the different skills and games teach yourself reliance and trust for the fellow beside you'.

Each house is occupied by seven to nine boys picked at random. This house becomes the boys' responsibility; there they take turn as leader, cook, cleaner and doing the many other chores. The breakfast and evening meals are cooked by the boys in their houses and the main meal of the day is eaten in the dining-hall in the middle of the day, cooked by one of the local cooks. This living system is very successful and the boys learn to take pride in their respective houses.

All the boys engage in a series of outdoor activities during their 18 week period. There is unlimited bush for tramping, camping and orienteering, rock bluffs for climbing and abseiling, nearby Lake Taupo for yachting and canoeing, while further south, one and a half hours drive away, Mt Ruapehu provides the boys with mountain craft.

They obviously enjoy their time, with an improvement evident in the academic field also. The Venture School has a character of its own that produces enthusiasm for all activities. The close-knit community has seen the development of its own weird type of sports and schoolboy 'latest crazes'. One such craze was keeping pet opossums from the surrounding bush. Some of the boys were often seen going around with their new found pets perched on top of their heads.

At the end of their 18 weeks the boys take delight in participating in supper consisting of ham and roast vegetables. Two weaner piglets are fed and fattened over the 18 week period so they are ready for bacon and ham when the boys are about to leave.

The Tihoi experience is one thing the boys will always have fond memories of, as well as testing their limits ... a



chance to do things they might have only thought about. The best thing that could ever happen to a 14 year old boy.

NB. John Furminger and his wife Christine have taken over Director of Venture School [ Brian and Jan Neville left in August 1992 after 11 years as Director].

Steve Cole is now Principal of St. Paul's Collegiate School.

1992 Staff  
Director - Brian Neville  
Deputy - Mark Jones  
Teacher Jan Neville  
Instructors  
    Stu McCowan  
    Richard Dunn  
    John Beattie

1993 Staff  
Director - John Furminger  
Deputy Stu McCowan  
Teacher Christine Furminger  
Instructor  
    Richard Dunn  
Tutors Haden Tichener  
    Chris Wynn  
    Busby Russell

#### TIHOI : A SPECIAL PLACE REVISITED

Edward R. Dunn

Little did I realise when I first came to Tihoi as a 19 year old Compulsory Military Training recruit for a four day basic training camp, that it would for me, become a 'special place'.

I arrived with an army convoy from Papakura Military Camp (20th intake) on 9 June 1956. We could not have been in a hurry to get there as it took seven hours to come down but only five to get back. As we surveyed our bleak surroundings, the sight of our advance party standing around a radio listening to a broadcast of the Springboks playing Waikato instead of setting up our tents was not promising.

However, we did have time before dark to collect scrub and tussock to make a softer sleeping pad in our tents and visit the latrine, which was not only in the sticks, but the seats were also made of sticks.

As a camera carrying farm boy from the mud of Silverdale north of Auckland, I took interest in and photographed the surrounds. These show the first ploughing of the scrub and tussock was up to Apple Tree Bridge.

Being mostly from the north we found the cold severe, so wore our great coats a lot. As a trainee radar operator whose job it was to locate mortar shells in flight, I at least had a warm place to work. Pity the poor gunners cleaning their artillery after a firing session. I remember the whisper of shells passing over the camp at night as they were fired away to the north-east. The next time I was to hear this noise was ten years later in West Berlin.

I came back for one annual fortnight camp with the 1st Locating Battery in April 1958. This was the last time it was used by the army I think. We went on several manoeuvres, this time mostly to the north-east, sometimes hiding the vehicles in the scrub as we set up our radar set and command post.

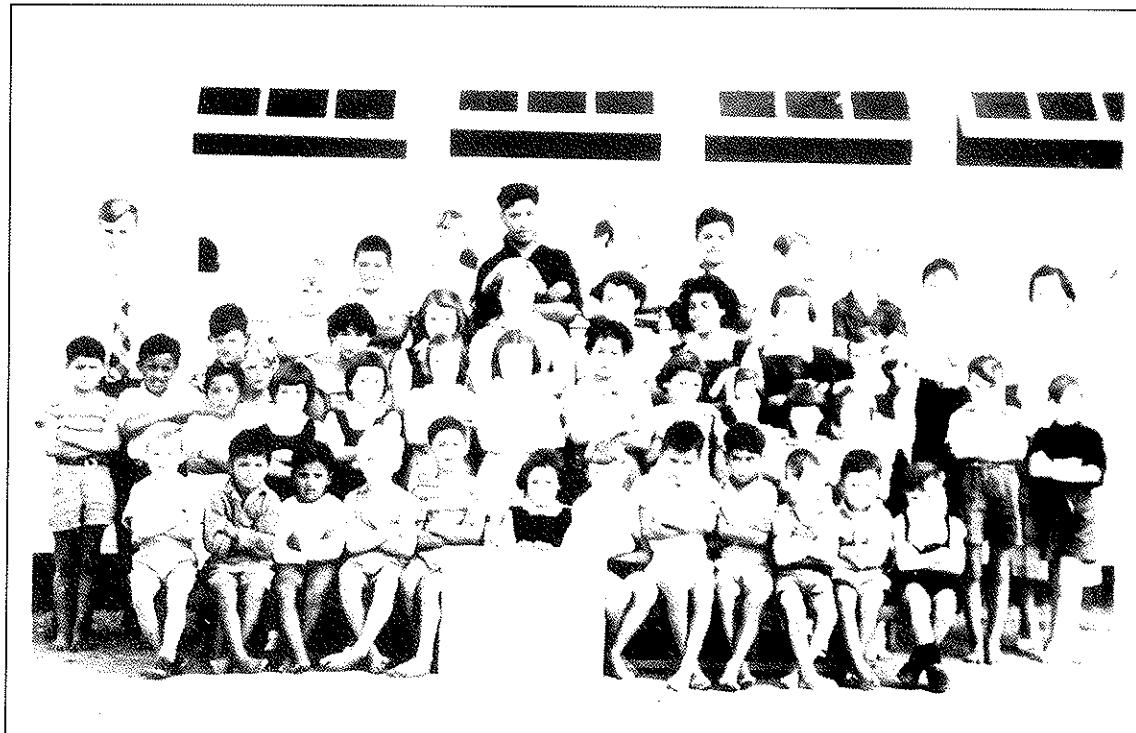
If we slept in the trucks we had to be up before the condensation on the metal roofs of the Matadors drowned us. Once we went south but we never visited Tihoi village. At camp we would dress for the cold mornings but by 11 am I remember we would be stripping off. Then the wind would get up and blow all the freshly loosened dust off the parade ground into every conceivable place.

Having a Rehab cousin farming at Tirohanga meant I came back several times as a 'civilian' - once when the parade ground was being ploughed.

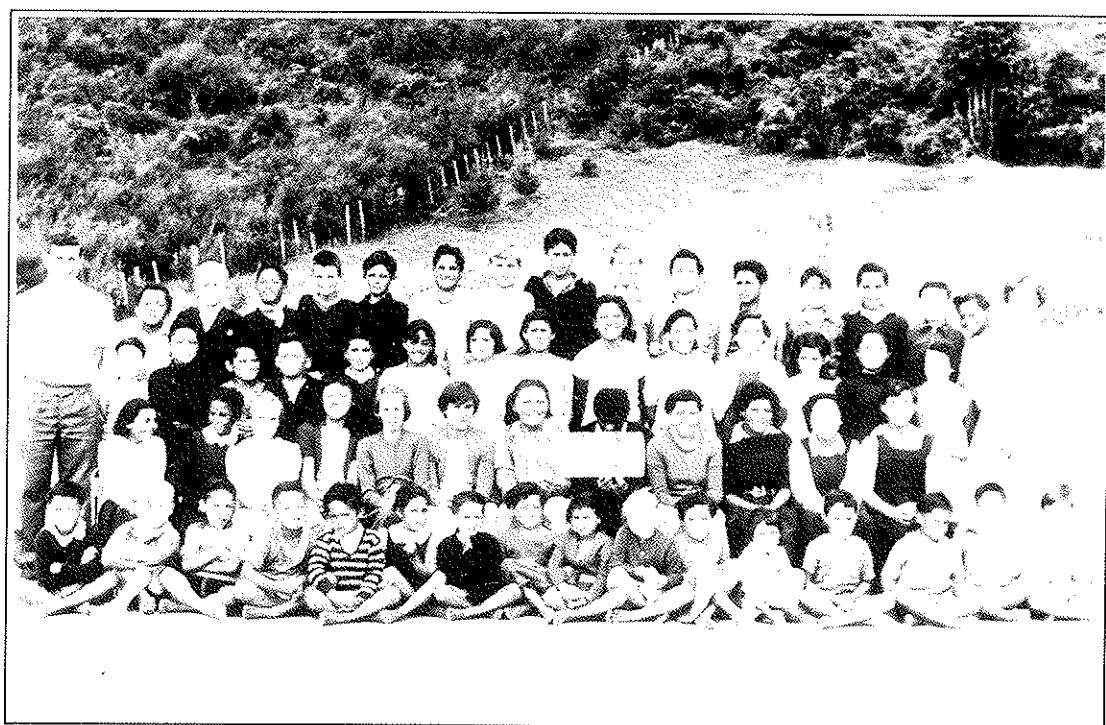
Moving in 1971 to a farm at Pukeatua led to our association with St. Paul's and thus its Venture School and Tihoi again. With working bees and three sons passing through St. Paul's, and now the eldest on the staff of the Venture School, we will continue to revisit Tihoi.



Tihoi Army Camp



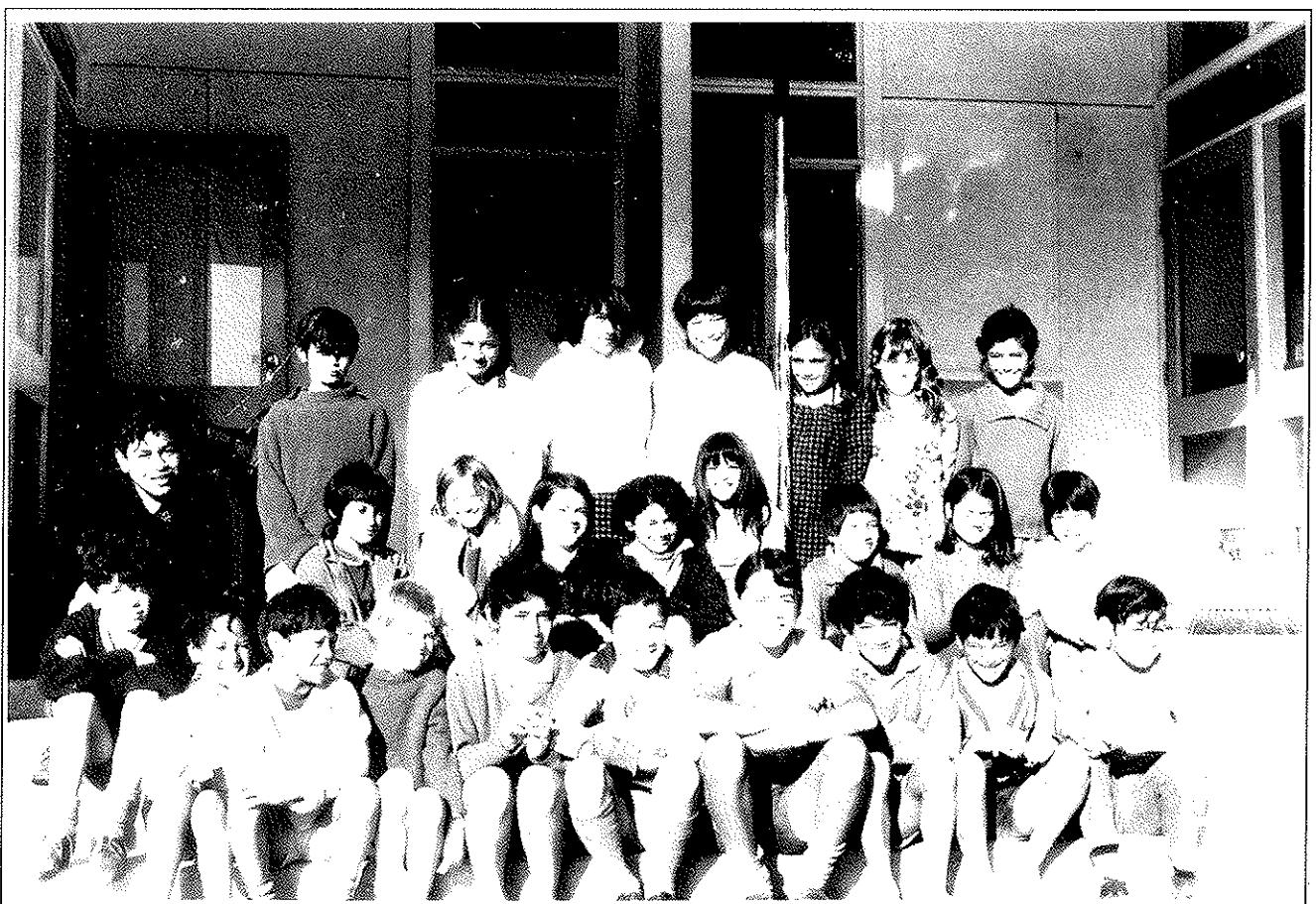
*Pupils 1955*



*Pupils 1958*



*Pupils 1966*



*Pupils 1971*



Pupils 1987

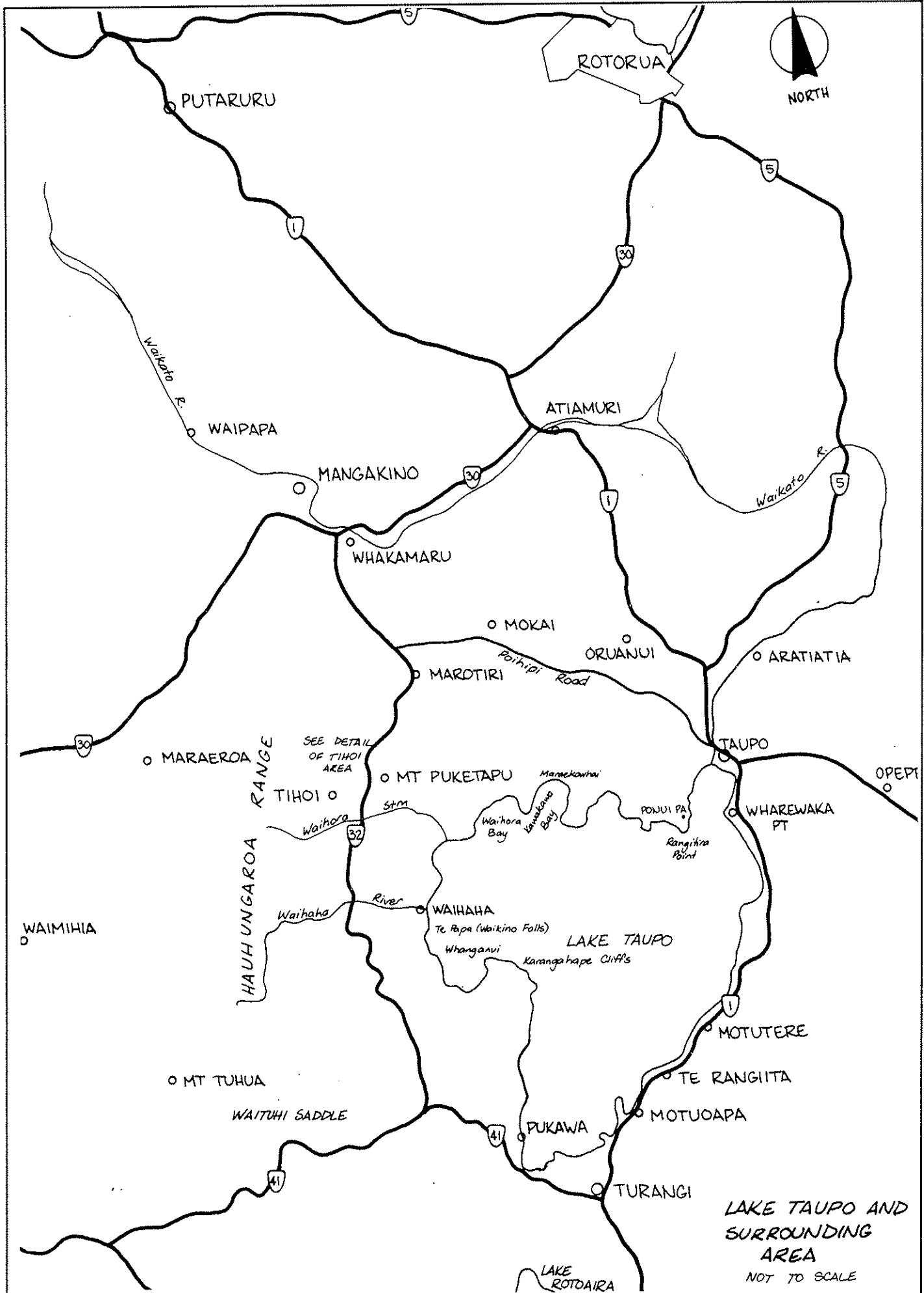


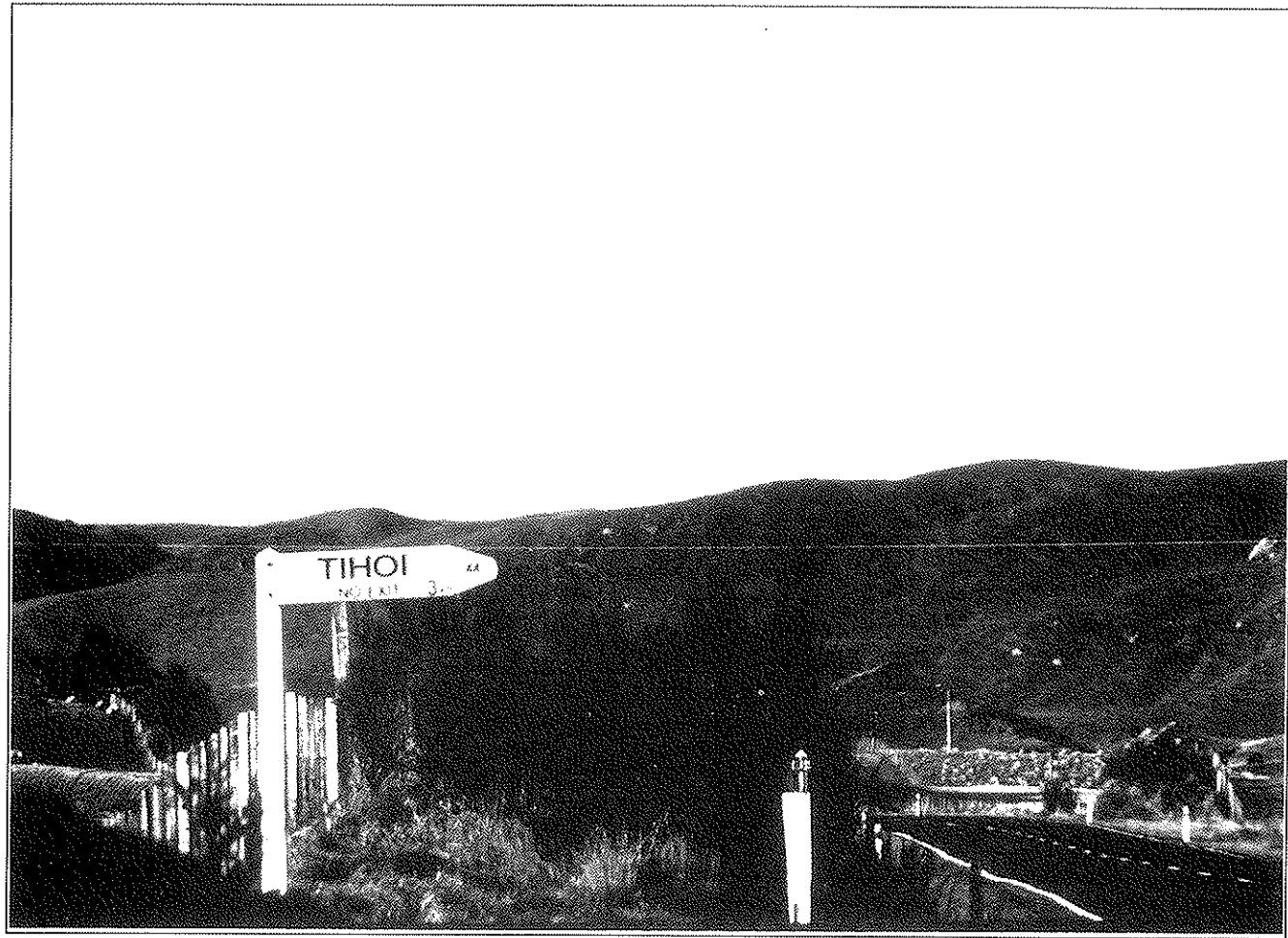
Pupils 1991

## **REGISTER OF ADMISSIONS TO TIHOI PRIMARY SCHOOL**

1941	WALDRON George WALDRON Lennard WALDRON Ronald HAMPTON Elma NEELS Patricia TURU Margaret TUREI Jim TURU Myra TUREI Mom TUREI Bob KENNETH Stewart TUREI Ben RATA Ada RATA Mary Rose RATA Maile RATA Queenie DUNN Stanley KARU Janei	1949 WINI Richard RATA Kopa PHILLIPS Robert MATEENE Sissy RATA Kathryn CHAPMAN Terry TOETOE Fred NORMAN Frank	1953 HARRISON Mathew TAU Albert FRASER Manawa DEANE George	1957 CLARKE Harry WILLIAMS Daniel EYLES Michael EYLES Alan JOYCE Juanita JOYCE Monica DOUGLAS Charles HAURAKI Virgil DEANE Lorriane NANKEVILLE John NANKEVILLE James NAIRN Karen NAIRN Rodney WHAREKAWA Janice BANNISTER Gillian BANNISTER Linda DOUGLAS Rangi TONGARIRO Olive HAURAKI Roena HAURAKI Thomas BANNISTER Kevin RAROA William TONGARIRO Peter RUDMAN Suzanne RUDMAN Jill RUDMAN Michael HARRIS Whetu HARRIS Harry RATAHI Peter RATAHI Glenis RATAHI Allan RATAHI Margaret RAROA Dave	1960 TE KIRI Sharon DEWES Jimmy DEWES Wikitoria MANUEL Pauline BAKER Peter ALBERT Terrence ALBERT John DUFF Sandra HAY Denver RATA Sheridan EDWARDS Edward EDWARDS Lorna BENNETT Terrence	1966 DUFF Helen AKURANGI Te Aroha CAIRNS Adrienne JACOB Robert NORMAN Hamish TAURANGA Lena TAURANGA Shona TAURANGA Daphne TAURANGA June TAURANGA Ken RATA Joan TAURANGA James BAYLISS Janice BAYLISS Sheryl HUME Evelyn THOMPSON Judith THOMPSON Heta THOMPSON Maria THOMPSON Henry BAYLISS Craig ALBERT Hector ALBERT Rehua WILLIAMS Clark ALBERT Venna ALBERT Vicki MARTIN Cecily
1942	RANGI William TAIPARI Thomas TOWNSEND John RIVERS Joseph LOWRIE Lorna					
1943	HAY Colin TOWNSEND Phyllis JONES Rae					
1945	Rata Yvonne PAERATA Hepina PAERATA Hurinui PAERATA Te Ariani WILLIAMS Dennis HAY Merlene GAHAN James PAERATA John McAVINUE Colleen					
1946	BAKER Colin BAKER Gilbert RATA Frances NOBLE Eva SMITH Susan SMITH Alfred BAKER Winnie FRANKLIN Malcolm SMITH Arthur SMITH Snowy BAKER William PARKIN Valerie FRANKLIN Alvin SCHIMANSKI Francis BIECHLER Beth KINGSBEER Yvonne					
1947	PAERATA Corinthia TOETOE Sam MAXWELL Queenie TAHU Maunsell MAXWELL Vera MAXWELL Kuru PANUI Marget PONA David WILLIAMSON Joyce WILLIAMSON James PEHI Tom					
1948	BECKETT Ngaire HENRY Murdoch PAUL Olive PAUL Ani MARTENE Hikoi ASHBY Winifred RATA Massey WILLIAMSON Andrea MARSH William FRANKLIN Edith HENRY Isaac					
1949	DEANE Doreen DEANE Jim DEANE Myrtle MCLEAN Norma PAERATA Harold MATEENE Whanaupani STYLES Jannita WHARE Maud WHARE John GAYLOR Meil STYLES Leslie CROCKETT Kerry TAWHI Peter TAWHI Colin BARNES Jeanette BARNES Thomas TAWHI John					
1953	MATENE Rewiri BRIDGE Peter REHU Margaret OTIMI Christine WEBSTER Sonia HOPKINS Bruce PRIER Thomas MONTGOMERY Wayne HAMON Huia PRIER Gloria AKURANGI Ani CAIRNS David NEUMANN William NEUMANN John NEUMANN Dorothy NEUMANN Patricia NEUMANN Richard DEANE Hazel SIMMONDS Mitai SIMMONDS Mapu SIMMONDS Owen RIVERS May RIVERS Marama RIVERS Lena RIVERS James RIVERS William AMOPIU Ned RATA Caroline					
1955	FIRMAN Patricia RIVERS Isobel EREPETA Ella EREPETA Ken DRAKE Allan PAKAI Arona HAY Colleen PHILLIPS William PHILLIPS Lydia PHILLIPS Robert AMOPIU Magnolia TAWHI Peter ANDERSON Trevor BURGESS Warwick					
1957	PERFECT Janis KOMENE Paul KOMENE Hilda MCARDY Gail NIKORA Teraiti TAANE Atareia MONTGOMERY Jacqueline MONTGOMERY Dayle GUNDERSON Judith WEBSTER Pompi DENNIS Yvonne ANDERSON Wayne ANDERSON Dennis WEBSTER Samuel WEBSTER Marlene WEBSTER Gretta WEBSTER Lavinia HEPI Mary KEGAN Errol KEGAN Wayne RATA Marilyn HAM Phillip WHIU Maude BURGESS Hilton HAY Leola RUDMAN Suzanne HEPI Barbara ANDERSON Kenneth					
1958	CAIRNS Beatrice YATES Jack RANGI Edward RANGI Ricky BROWN Grace STEPHENS Sandra CAMPBELL William PERFECT Janis KOMENE Paul KOMENE Hilda MCARDY Gail NIKORA Teraiti TAANE Atareia MONTGOMERY Jacqueline MONTGOMERY Dayle GUNDERSON Judith WEBSTER Pompi DENNIS Yvonne ANDERSON Wayne ANDERSON Dennis WEBSTER Samuel WEBSTER Marlene WEBSTER Gretta WEBSTER Lavinia HEPI Mary KEGAN Errol KEGAN Wayne RATA Marilyn HAM Phillip WHIU Maude BURGESS Hilton HAY Leola RUDMAN Suzanne HEPI Barbara ANDERSON Kenneth					
1959	TUDOR Raymond HARRIS Heperi SPRINGHALL Flavian ALBERT John RUDMAN Christine WILSON George BAKER Roger BAKER Benjamin BAKER Graham BAKER Joseph BAKER Wayne BAKER Kevin REYNOLDS Roy THOMPSON Richard DUFF Allan BENNETT Bruce BENNETT Elizabeth CAIRNS Cassell JOHANSEN Phillip DEANE Raewyn GUNDERSON Ralph HUGHES Victor HUGHES Peter HUGHES Harry MAJOR Judith MAJOR Wayne TE KANAUA Christine EDDY John EDDY Peter STEVENS Edward SHIRES Ross					
1960	WILSON George BAKER Roger BAKER Benjamin BAKER Graham BAKER Joseph BAKER Wayne BAKER Kevin REYNOLDS Roy THOMPSON Richard DUFF Allan BENNETT Bruce BENNETT Elizabeth CAIRNS Cassell HEPI Petrina HEPI Josephine TAI Marion MIRUNGAAORANGI Rakapa RATA Colin LONG Eleanor LONG William LYNNE Karen WHARE David KINO Harry JONES Gwendoline KINO Judy KINO Janice WILLIAMS Daniel TE KARU Robert CLARKE Joan CLARKE Ola CLARKE Shirley					
1962	WALKER Robyn WALKER Lindsay FERGUSON David JOHNSON Mervyn JOHNSON Thomas TE HUIA Deborah OWENS Stephen OWENS Jeffery OWENS Carl HAY Lance BROWN Garry DODDS Margaret DODDS Barry DODDS Janet					
1964	NIXON Wayne MORRIS Rachel HARWOOD Anthony HARRIS Patricia ALBERT Suzanne DUFF Howard HEPI Caroline BENCETTI Peter BENCETTI Antonia BENCETTI Anna RAPANA William JACOB Douglas HEPI Beverly NIXON Mark					
1965	WALKER Karen CROCKETT Valerie HEPI Mihi HEPI Te Aure					
1966	HAY Lance HUNTER Barbara HUNTER Moss JOHNSON Melvin MOHI Janice NGARAE George NGARAE Leslie NELSON Jaqueline PORIMA Rowena PORIMA Deborah PORIMA Karen PORIMA Daisy PORIMA Maude RATA Tania					

1969	1973	1978	1983
TE TOMO Denn	FISK Murray	BLANK David Lance	ROBERTSON Mark
TE TOMO Debbie	FISK Helen	CORNELIUS Suzanne Joy	William
1970	HATA Wahipu Nigel	CHAMBERS Damion	ROBERTSON Wayne John
FIRMIN Ian Wayne	Rangi	DAVIES Wayne Keith	STIRLING Bevan Paul
FISK Murray	KINGI Atiria	EASTWOOD Roslyn	1984
GALVIN Keriana	McCUSKER Julie Ann	Rosemary Rose	ANDERSON Karen
HUNTER Brends	McCUSKER Michael	FONTANA Tracy Repene	Dorothy
HEPI Ruiha	MAIKA Petera	1978	COULTER Hamish
HUNTER Susan	MAIKA Anthony	HEPI Shane Manuel	COULTER Bevan
HUNTER Allan	MAIKA Dean	SPEERS Valerie Rose	FAUSETT Sonya Rose
HUNTER Barbara	MATCHITT Karyn	SINTON Carey Colwyn	FAUSETT Tracey
KIRE Tony	Beverley	TAI Lorna	KERR Mathew
MARTIN Doreen	MATCHITT Lance Bradley	TUI Karen	LOOMES Beth
MOHI Lee Ann Joy	MATCHITT Glen Massey	TUI Adele	MARX Teresa
RATA Donna	RIVERS Clarry	TUI Janine	PACKER Damian
TWIST Stewart	SPEERS Jean	TUI Lee Marie	RIVERS Jason
TWIST Murray	SMITH Vanessa Marie	WOODHEAD Anthony	STIRLING Lana Michelle
TAWHI Samuel Jack	SPEERS George Edward	James	TAWA Joell
WAREN Daphne	SPEERS Pani Frances	1979	1985
WALKER Robyn	TAI Polly	BAZELEY Stefan Jason	DAVIS Charles
WALKER Pania	WHETO Rangimaria	Nigel	HART Ramon
WELSH Lisa	Caroline	BAZELEY Karen Marie	HART Daniel
	WEIR Mervyn	CROCKETT Janey-Ann	KEOGH Kim
1971	1974	Marteen	KEOGH Michael
ALBERT Venna	APITI Raewyn Wiki	HOWDEN Anthony	LEEF Ricky
ALBERT Victoria	ALBERT Darcy Trevor	HAWKINS Belinda Marie	1986
ALBERT Paul	ALBERT Robert	ORMOND Sonny Tekahu	ANNAS Wendy Joanne
ALBERT Gerald	BROWN Mandie	RICHARDS Adrian	BARRACLOUGH Lorraine
BOYD Karen	CRUTCHLEY Ricky	RIVERS Frank John	May
BROWN Thomas	COLEMAN Deborah Sue	SHAW Tania Mary	BELVIE Jackson Kerry
BROWN David	COLEMAN Tracey Kim	SHAW Sarah	CAIRNS Hazel Hariata
BROWN Howie	CROCKETT Marlene	STEVENS Vivian	PACKER Mason
BROWN Charles	DUFF Helen Francis	SMITH Tracey	CALLAGHER Angela
BROWN David	DUFF Murray Owen	SMITH Paul	Frances
BROWN Adrian Eric	GRIMMER Jennifer	TAUEKI-WATSON	
CROCKETT Lolarita	MATCHITT Pamela	Eugene	1987
CAIRNS Adrienne	MURIWAI Kim Sheree	TAUEKI-WATSON	ANDERSON Michelle
FURNELL Robert	OSBORNE Rocky James	Raymond	COTTRELL Joanne
FLAVELL Robert	OSBORNE Brett William	TAUEKI-WATSON Nigel	COTTRELL Richard
GARDNER Shane	PHILLIPS Tania Hinemoa	1980	KARLSSON Annika
HETA James	RATA Shane	BELVIE Seymour Pakira	PACKER Mark
HETA Henry	RIVERS Selina	BROWN Fredrick	POLLOCK Serena
HEKE Charmaine	SINTON Derek Grant	Lawrence	POLLOCK Elizabeth
HEKE Norman	SMITH Joanne Roslyn	CARYNIDIS Brendon	STAFFORD Jenny
MOHI Janice	TAIROA Rodney	Wayne	STAFFORD Kane
MOHI Leeanne	WHETO Margaret	CARYNIDIS Derek Louis	TUAPAWA Helena
NICHOLAS Taitatini	Elizabeth	FLOYD Kelly Jean Marawa	WHALLEY Haley Kristen
Rangiwahia	WEIR Margaret Joan	GRIFFITHS Brendon	
NICHOLAS Lorraine Te		HAWKINS Angela Iriangi	1988
Hei		JAMES Helena	McGREGOR Thomas
NARAYAN Nadja	APITI Paul	JAMES Anna Marie	NEPSON Rihara Te Rangi
REIHANA Ropihia	ALBERT Donna Maria	MATHEWS Angela Hera	Hiroa
REIHARA Millie	BATES Annissa	MATHEWS Fredrick	NEPSON Katania
RIVERS Mahalia	BREWER Jenny Aroha	Sonny	RIVERS Eddie
TUHEKE Takirau Douglas	CAIRNS Dion Charles	O'BRIEN Tony William	RIBBON Raymond
	DENTON Tony	O'BRIEN Jay Dean	WILLOUGHBY Mark
1972	DENTON Brent	TE AHURU Zeus	Daniel
APITI Rodney George	MURIWAI Aroha Michelle	WILTON Rosemary Jean	WILLOUGHBY Louise
Ngataipu	RATA Duane	1981	Amelia
BROWN Warwick	RATA Christian	ANDERSON Murray	1989
BROWN Augustine	REIHANA Lynette	CROCKETT Darleen	BOWRON Timothy
CHURCH Lee TeKarami	REIHANA Rachael Amy	JAMES Andre Rhys	LUNKEN Nikki
CHURCH John Nika	RIVER Melissa Rangi	LIDDLE Annette	ORMOND Wayne
CHURCH Maria	TAI Dean	LIDDLE Sonya	ORMOND Charlotte
FLAVELL Doreen	WANA Gaylene Julie Eva	NGAMOTU Debbie Marie	RAPANA Richard
HUNTER Dorothea	WANA Dion Jonathan	NGAMOTU Jason Stanley	REHU David
HARMER Shayne	WHETO Daniel Jeffrey	NGAMOTU Amanda	
HARMER Mathew	1976	NEVILLE Katrina	1990
HUNUHUNU Barney	BEATTIE Albert Michael	NEVILLE Craig	ADAMS Jean
Teputupa	Shane	SIMMONDS Janine Lyn	ADAMS Charlene
HEPI Tereasa	BEATTIE Majorie Helen	TE AHURU Zachariah	CAVE Alan
HARMER Eula	Theresa	1982	CAVE Sandra
HATA Ada	BEATTIE Ronald James	BOWRON Anthony James	EDWARDS Nathan Louis
HATA Porena	BEATTIE Angela Jane	BOWRON Micheal John	James Nepia
MIDDLETON Beverly Ann	BLANK Tony Wayne	IWIKAU Faylene	KENNEY Jonathon
MIDDLETON Jody Lynn	BEALS Shane Troy	JOSEPH Ranea	1990
MIDDLETON Terence	CROCKETT Jason Hilton	KING Clodelle	MILDENHALL Leanne
Herbert	HARTLEY Anthony	LOOMES Ruth Ellen	MILDENHALL Shane
MOHI Desirree Lynn	Alexander	LOOMES Andrew William	WILLOUGHBY Nadine
MUNRO Josephine	HEPI Eileen Joanna	PAGET Tony Neilson	1991
MORRISON Michael	Frances	PAGET Gina Adele	CROCKETT Kasey
PURVIS David Michael	JOSEPH Rangi Marama	PICKAVANCE Bernadette	CROCKETT Roger
PURVIS Stephen Philip	JOSEPH Hine	PICKAVANCE Sophie	MCLEOD Jamie
PHILLIPS Lance Kingi	OTTAWAY Colette	TAHAU Memorie	MCLEOD Patchess
William	Elizabeth	WATTS Karen Deborah	TAYLOR Ric
PHILLIPS Dale Antoinette	OTTAWAY Angela	WATTS Russell Fredrick	1992
PHILLIPS Tui	Rhonda	1983	WICKLIFFE Sophia
PARKES Nancy Teresa	WANA Marisse Lucille	BOWRON Maria Rachel	KIRKWOOD Roseline
SINTON Amanda Doone	Veronica	CROCKETT Peter	LOOMES Joanne
TAWHI Joseph Adrian	WATSON Graham Lloyd	CAMPBELL Debbie	SINTON Vance
TAI Tori	WATSON Paul Lance	Nerissia	TE WAKE Fane
TAI Wanda	WATSON Jason William	CHARMAN Kelly Raewyn	TEDDY Natasha
TAI Samuel	WATSON Steven Michael	CHARMAN Angela Kay	WICKLIFFE Govey
TAI Annie	WATSON	LARSEN Glenn Simon	SWEENEY Rebecca
WAPOURI Robert	1977	LARSEN David Brian	BAIGENT Glen
1973	ANDERSON Linda	MURIWAI Janine Kay	
APITI Ophelia Te	APIATA Debbie	PIHAMA Heidi Louise	
Kotahitanga	APIATA Helen	ROBERTSON Ann Marie	
ALBERT Jason Neil	APIATA William		
CHISHOLME Raylene Joy	DUNN Petra		
CHISHOLME Annette	HATA Maraea		
Marie	MORGAN Oram Emanuel		
CROCKETT Nyree Anita	TAI Bavdean Martin		
Tangi	WATSON Angela Kim		





### THE SPIRIT OF TIHOI

Ann Robertson

Nestled in shadows of the past -  
Majestic native bush,  
Industrious saw mills,  
The triumphant 'Tihoi Stags' and 'Waihaha Club'

Tihoi stands proud -  
Overlooked by Lake Taupo,  
Protected by Tutakamoana,  
While Titiraupenga and Pureora keep a watchful eye.

A mere skeleton of the past -  
Two schools,  
A lone trading post,  
Only a handful of people of the farming community.

Obscured from the nation -  
Now off the beaten track,  
Hidden by tunnel vision,  
Of those who only look forward forgetting the past.

But the glory remains in memories -  
A land of different cultures,  
A hive of activity,  
In the pride of her children,  
The spirit of Tihoi lives on.

Although life may falter  
Industries stop,  
Buildings disintegrate,  
And people scatter, then disappear,  
Protected by old memories, Tihoi will never die.

